FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 FEBRUARY 1985

Lebanon

IDF Operations — The IDF Killed nine "terrorists" and captured several others during searches of Shi'ite villages in the Tyre area on 23 February, Jerusalem radio announced. Meanwhile, in statements carried by the radio, Nabih Birri and the Amal movement declared a "general mobilization" in the south against the Israelis. At the Israeli Cabinet session the following day, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres resisted pressure to discuss accelerating the withdrawal from Lebanon, but he told the ministers that a detailed debate on the IDF withdrawal will be held at the session on 3 March, according to IDF radio.

Phalangists in Damascus — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad discussed the Lebanese situation with a visiting Phalangist Party delegation on 23 February, Damascus radio reported. Party leader Elie Karamah, who headed the delegation, subsequently stated that the "positive and frank" talks focused on security issues and "clarified the picture to a large extent," according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Noting that the delegation's visit to Damascus was the first "in several years," Voice of Lebanon radio said the meeting with Al-Asad covered plans to strengthen the Lebanese Army as well as the security plans for greater Beirut, the coastal road, and the Beirut-Damascus road.

PLO-Jordanian Agreement

Following the publication of the Jordanian-PLO agreement in Amman, acting Jordanian Information Minister Tahir Hikmat said that UN Resolution 242 "is one of a group of principles" aimed at achieving a settlement, Amman radio reported. Responding to Hikmat's comments, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi restated the PLO's rejection of Resolution 242 "categorically and in principle," according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Israel

Assassination Plans — In a letter to the Amman AFP office the "Terror Against Terror" organization announced plans to assassinate Prime Minister Peres because of his "peace in exchange for land" policy, *'Al HAMISHMAR* reported.

Falashas — The Ethiopian Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Addis Ababa radio, called on the international community to force Israel to return the "kidnapped" Falashas to Ethiopia. Monitored Israeli media have not reported or commented on the Ethiopian statement.

Syria-Jordan

On 23 February five armed men "infiltrated" Syria's Dar'a Province from Jordanian territory and killed two civilians, the Syrian information minister announced in a statement carried by Damascus SANA. The Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus was summoned and informed of Syria's "strong denunciation" of the incident, the statement noted. The Jordanian interior Ministry "categorically" refuted the Syrian statement, according to Amman television.

Kuwait

Following the 21 February announcement of the final general election results, the Kuwaiti Government resigned on 23 February, KUNA reported. The Kuwaiti amir later issued an order, broadcast by Kuwait radio, reappointing the heir apparent as prime minister. While the Arab nationalists scored a five-seat comeback it is expected that the conservatives will again dominate the National Assembly, the *ARAB TIMES* opined. Political sources anticipate little change in foreign policy but noted the increase in the number of seats now held by candidates calling for economic and social reform, the paper added.

Iran-Iraq War

Despite "some weaknesses" the UN report on POW conditions shows that Iraq is primarily responsible for violating Geneva conventions, according to an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement cited by IRNA. An Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iraq is ready to implement the UN recommendations "sincerely and accurately," INA reported. Meanwhile Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi announced that all "crippled and ill" Iraqi POW's will be released unilaterally, IRNA disclosed.

Pakistan

Constitutional amendments will be announced in "a few days," President Ziaul Haq said in a speech concerning the 25 February general elections broadcast by Karachi radio. President Zia went on to describe the elections as completely "free and impartial," adding that he hopes the law enforcement agencies will maintain law and order "at all costs." Addressing correspondents later, President Zia said that after the restoration of the 1973 Constitution martial law will be lifted "in phases," the radio reported.

Algeria

A protocol of agreement on supplying Spain with liquefied natural gas was signed following talks between Spain's Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and his Algerian counterpart, APS reported.

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Arafat Receives Saudi King's Message 22 Feb

JN231737 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz yesterday on the results of the latter's recent visit to Washington. Our radio correspondent has learned that Shaykh 'Ali ibn Salim, King Fahd's envoy, delivered the message to Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar at the Palestinian headquarters in Tunis last night.

PLO's Qaddumi Comments on PLO-Jordanian Agreement

JN250638 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Interview with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Lutf, by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent George Qurdahi; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Qurdahi] Brother Abu al-Lutf. Last Saturday, Tahir Hikmat, acting Jordanian information minister, announced the full text of the agreement that was reached by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. He said that the agreement does not stipulate rejecting UN Security Council 242 and calls for forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the peace conference — two basic points that a number of PLO leaders had rejected. As head of the PLO Political Department, what is your comment on this issue?

[Qaddumi] Much has been published on the Jordanian-Palestinian plan of action. It must be said that basically there is no need for an agreement with Jordan. What use is the agreement after the Arabs, during the Baghdad summit conference, rejected partial separate solutions? In Fes, the Arabs approved an Arab peace plan on which the Arab states had agreed. A 7-member committee was formed to propagate this plan, which attracted large-scale international support.

In its recent statement, the PLO Executive Committee stressed the principles and background of any political move with any Arab side. It reiterated its rejection of the Reagan plan and UN Security Council Resolution 242 in accordance with PNC decisions. While discussing the Palestinian-Jordanian plan of action, it was observed that its articles could take various meanings, and that its formulation could have various interpretations. Therefore, basic changes were introduced to the agreement and sent to Jordan. Despite all this, I find it my duty to say that during all its sessions, the PNC affirmed that any just solution must ensure the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination without any external interference. It must ensure the Palestinian people's right of establishing their independent state on their national soil and the refugees' return to their homes. These PNC sessions reaffirmed their refusal to concede the independent PLO representation of the Palestinians in any international or Arab efforts. This should be the basis of any PLO political move.

From the U.S. viewpoint, we are asked to accept the provisions of Resolution 242 and to accept that Jordan participate in direct negotiations with Israel with a delegation includingPalestinians under the auspices of the United States and without the participation of the friendly USSR. These points are rejected categorically and in principle. They cannot be discussed with the Palestinian side. If fraternal Jordan thinks that its interpretation of the plan of action contradicts and varies with our concept and viewpoint, then it is better that we stop at this point; we should forget about this plan of action forever because this is better for all of us. This is because as leadership and leaders we cannot jump over the PNC resolutions in any form whatsoever. If this plan of action becomes an agreement, then the PNC will have the right to discuss it before it is approved. As a leadership, we have no right to replace the PNC.

PNC Speaker Praises PLO-Jordanian Agreement

JN241731 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] PNC Speaker 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has stressed that the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement on a formula for joint action to achieve a settlement of the Palestine question, which was reached in Amman on 11 February 1985, does not conflict with the Palestinian National Charter or with the PLO's regulations.

In a press statement published in Kuwait yesterday, Al-Sa'ih said that the ideas and formulas included in this agreement are based on the resolutions approved by the previous PNC sessions. He affirmed that this agreement will introduce the Arab efforts to assure the Palestinian people's legitimate and inalienable rights on the international level.

Palestinian Leaders Decry PLO-Jordan Accords

PFLP's Habash

JN222136 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1906 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal in Damascus; carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not given —recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] We contacted Dr George Habash in the Syrian capital, and he categorically rejected the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. However,is this categorical rejection a principled rejection, or because the agreement could have further safeguarded Palestinian rights? Let us listen to Dr George Habash.

[Habash] We rejected the agreement in principle because it undermines a basic foundation on which Palestinian struggle has been based for the past 3 years. This foundation says that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. During many PNC sessions, expressions such as no delegation of powers, no authorization, and no sharing of representation were emphasized. Therefore, we have the right to reject this agreement, which calls for a joint delegation.

[Nawfal] What do you see for the future? How do you view Palestinian action?

[Habash] There is no doubt that this agreement has complicated matters in the Palestinian arena very much. However, it is not permissible for us to despair. The many years of sacrifice and bloodshed cannot go to waste. Our essential task at present is to work to foil the agreement. This is the central issue to which we are now devoting our efforts. We are now calling on all Palestinian national figures, national forces, armed factions, and all organizations and bodies to state their views on the need to decisively and explicitly reject this agreement.

[Nawfal] Dr George Habash, do you not believe that 'Arafat signed the agreement because you have adopted a decisive stand rejecting any dialogue, particularly with him, even before the agreement was signed?

[Habash] This is not true. All of us know that the PFLP and the Palestinian Democratic Alliance conducted lengthy discussions before the PNC session was convened. Since our departure from Beirut, we sensed that 'Arafat had that trend in mind — that of seeking a solution to the Palestinian cause through the U.S. We did our best to prevent this at the 16th PNC session, and even after he visited Cairo; we did the impossible, but events have demonstrated that 'Arafat has his mind set on something. He wants to try the U.S. solution. I say that the U.S. solution will offer nothing to either 'Arafat or the Palestinian people. The U.S. solution will only result in making one concession after another.

Will the land be regained as a result of this course, that of wagering on the U.S. solution? This is a first question. If the land is regained, what part of this land will be regained? If part is regained, will it return to the Palestinian people or to King Husayn and the Jordanian regime? We must also not forget the effect that adopting the U.S. course will have on the Arab national liberation movement and on the historic conflict between us and Zionism. That is why we spared no efforts to prevent 'Arafat from pursuing this course. However, 'Arafat is determined to pursue this course.

[Nawfal] You and Nayif Hawatimah had differences before the agreement. These differences specifically were on Yasir 'Arafat. Do these differences continue to exist, or is there now an agreement in views between you and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]?

[Habash] It is only natural that differences exist between any two organizations, no matter what level of alliance exists between them, as long as these two organizations have not merged in a single organization. Therefore, we have some differences with the DFLP. However, we feel that we are in the same trench against the rightists' policy, which has nearly destroyed our Palestinian national cause. Of course, after the Amman agreement, differences of opinion and disputes, supposedly, must decrease. We and our brothers in the DFLP are in full agreement on the need to foil the agreement. This is something on which we do not differ. Of course, there may be differences on how to achieve this. For example, we believe that this qualitative step must be confronted by another qualitative step on our part.

[Nawfal] What could be the nature of the qualitative step you will adopt?

[Habash] We in the PFLP believe in the need to group all Palestinian national forces, factions, and figures within the framework of a single front, whose objective would be to foil the agreement and this trend. This is one of our basic tasks.

[Nawfal] Dr George Habash, do you still consider Yasir 'Arafat as the head of the PLO, or not?

[Habash] If we view the PLO as being a political course and political resolutions made by our PNC sessions, I regrettably can say that 'Arafat no longer represents the PLO, that he no longer represents the Palestinian people or the Palestinian people's national objectives.

[Nawfal] One last question, Dr George Habash. Will there be one PLO or two in the foreseeable future?

[Habash] Our objective now is to establish the Palestinian national front, which must comprise all Palestinian national forces. Our objective is to have the PLO return to the national course. Our objective is in no way whatsoever to create another PLO or a substitute PLO. We believe that we will be able to fulfill this task when everyone discovers the disappointment that the U.S. solution will bring. We will be able to accomplish this task. We bet on the Fatah cadres and bases. I do not say that we bet on the Fatah command. The Fatah movement is a national body that we trust. Fatah comprises teachers, students, and workers, all of whom will adopt the sound national stand that will be dictated by the interests of the Palestinian national cause. I have read the statement the Teachers Union issued in Tunis rejecting the agreement. I hope that this will be a step on the road toward a movement within Fatah ranks that will have some influence. This movement will make Fatah return to its national stand, and will make it resume its effective contribution to escalating armed struggle, which is our only course for changing the balance of power.

Fatah 'Dissident' Muragha

JN222153 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1941 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Interview with Fatah dissident leader Sa'id Musa Muragha, identified by his nom de guerre Colonel Abu Musa, by Radio Monte Carlo news director Antoine Nawfal in Damascus; carried within the weekly "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Abu Musa, who is known for his complete opposition to the accord and to Yasir 'Arafat personally, believes that the series of concessions in the PLO began in 1974. Let us listen to him to explain his position to us.

[Muragha] We believe that this step is part of past steps. This step is not the beginning. It was preceded by 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and the agreement between King Husayn and Husni Mubarak within the framework of Camp David. Therefore, we expected these things in advance. Through our experience, we

have realized that 'Arafat would reach this point. We did wish that some other parties would have realized this 'Arafatist political step. Had they realized this, the Palestinian arena would not have reached its current stage. Thus, we say that this step not only affects the Palestinian arena, but also the Arab and international arenas. However, we in the Palestinian arena hope that all the hesitant forces will decide their matters regarding this treasonous move by Yasir 'Arafat.

[Nawfal] However, how do you view the future action now? Is it going to be through a broad front, for example? Who would be included in this front?

[Muragha] Yes. First, in reply to such step, we say that this step aims at peddling Camp David in the Jordanian-Palestinian arena, and consequently at liquidating the Palestine question, ending the Arab-Zionist conflict, and besieging the Arab confrontation forces, represented by Syria. Therefore, we believe that all the vital Palestinian forces that are facing this serious situation must — provided they are faithful and sincere — confront this step and be organized within a nationalist front, regardless of the breadth of this front. The most important thing is a nationalist front to assume responsibility for this stage. This front should have a leadership. It is unncessary for this leadership to announce that it is an alterntive or a new PLO. However, it should be a nationalist leadership, in order to assume responsibility for safeguarding the Palestine question and stopping this deviation that has pushed matters to a very serious point, represented by liquidating the Palestine question.

[Nawfal] Has a merger draft agreement been reached between you and Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]? So far, a joint command has been formed and Abu Khalid al-'Amlah, the joint command's official spokesman, has announced the merging of the two movements. When will this take place?

[Muragha] Yes, in the statement we made, we said — first, only for the purpose of correction, we say that there is nothing called the Abu Nidal group. There is a party in the Fatah movement called the Revolutionary Council; it was arbitrarily given the Abu Nidal name by Yasir 'Arafat and his clique — we have said that at this stage we formed a joint command to pave the way for a real unity of the Fatah movement's two wings. We believe that those brothers who predicted matters and realized the deviation that reached the level of treason at this stage, stand at a nationalist position. It is our national duty to unite all the nationalist forces opposed to the course of deviation and treason in order to confront this step. We hope that all forces that ideologically agree with each other will unite, in order to end fragmentation in the Palestinian arena and to adopt real stands and actions toward real confrontation.

[Nawfal] Have you met Abu Nidal recently and discussed all these matters?

[Muragha] Yes, we have met, discussed matters, held a dialogue, and set the program on which we have agreed — through the joint command — to reach unity.

[Nawfal] Are you currently holding dialogue with other parties?

[Muragha] A week ago, our comrades in the PFLP came up with a plan. In the National Alliance, we are holding dialogue with the PFLP comrades, who have currently given up the concept of the unionist council and comprehensive dialogue. Therefore, we believe that this step is good and advanced. We hope that we will, along with them and the other forces, reach a unified stand in order to form a nationalist front to lead the Palestinian action and to safeguard the PLO, its national achievements, and the national cause as a whole.

[Nawfal] Colonel, no one denies that 'Arafat's loyalists form an overwhelming majority in the camps in Lebanon. It has been said that possibly a strong competition will take place around these camps, and that this competition would turn into fighting in order to control these camps, particularly in southern Lebanon and Beirut. Are you going to return to these camps strongly, and with whose help?

[Muragha] First, we believe that the camps in Beirut, in southern Lebanon, and in Lebanon as a whole constitute a path and not a destination for us. Contrary to rumors, 'Arafat has no forces or groups in Lebanon. This is a fact that everyone, including our brothers in the Lebanese nationalist forces, knows. The Amal movement and the Palestinians in the camps themselves are aware of this fact. Those people in our camps are nationalists who do not support 'Arafat's treason. Therefore, there will be no competition or massacres in the Palestinian 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah camps, as 'Arafat has said. However, there are 'Arafatist symbols who attempt to harm our people. Thus, we say that we exist as a political position toward struggle with the Lebanese forces and their armed forces, which are continuously working for armed struggle against occupation and the Zionist presence in southern Lebanon. We put all of our resources at the disposal of this nationalist action, which ultimately serves the pan-Arab stand toward the liberation of Palestine.

[Nawfal] Therefore, you do not believe that what has taken place in Tripoli would take place in Sidon, for example?

[Uragha] This will not take place at all, because 'Arafat's arrival at that stage was part of a premeditated plan to prevent effective Palestinian forces from participating with the Lebanese nationalist forces in liberating the mountain and Beirut, and consequently from supporting the Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon. I can say that 'Arafat created the incidents in Tripoli in order to divert the Palestinian resistance from their real objectives. Thus, we say that the current stage is that of liberating southern Lebanon, along with the Lebanese forces and their armed forces, from the Zionist occupation.

PLO's Al-Rahman Rejects Any U.S. Solution

GF221914 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] A prominent Palestinian official has stated that the PLO rejects entering into any type of U.S. solution and insists on the holding of an international conference under the supervision of the United States and the Soviet Union instead of an individual U.S. role.

In a press statement in Tunis, Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, PLO official spokesman and information official, said that if there was any vagueness surrounding the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement articles, the PLO Executive Council's statement, approved by the Fatah Central Committee, has removed this vagueness through three main points. He added: The first point concerns the PLO's stand on a settlement. The statement rejected entering into any form of U.S. settlement and insisted on holding an international conference under the supervision of the two superpowers, instead of an individual U.S. role.

He continued: The second point concerns the establishment of constant rights for the Palestinian people, stressing the right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He said that the third point elucidated in the Executive Committee's statement concerns the refusal to recognize UN Resolution 242 and direct negotiations with the Israeli enemy.

PLO Radio Details Attacks in Southern Lebanon

23 Feb

JN231747 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men carried out four armed attacks on four positions belonging to the Israeli invasion forces and the agent Lebanese militias near the city of Tyre and the town of Hasbayyah in occupied southern Lebanon today. The attacks, which were carried out with machineguns and rockets, resulted in heavy losses in life and equipment among the ranks of the enemy forces and the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the attacks, but declined to mention losses. He said that his forces immediately launched a large-scale search campaign for the resistance men. However, these attempts were in vain.

24 Feb

JN241715 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men used machineguns and rockets to attack the Zionist liaison unit building in the city of Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon today. The attack killed or wounded a number of Zionist soldiers, and caused a great amount of damage to the building. A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation and, as usual, declined to mention losses. He said that his forces immediately launched large-scale arrest and search campaigns for the resistance men. However, these attempts were in vain.

PLO Radio: Zionist Bus Seized in Gaza Strip

JN221740 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Our valiant revolutionaries operating inside the occupied homeland are escalating their operations against the men and equipment of the Zionist occupation forces, inflicting further loss in life and equipment on them. This is in accordance with the revolution command's directives and resolutions to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of conflict. A Palestinian military spokesman said that a group of our valiant revolutionaries carried out a daring operation today in the occupied Gaza Strip. They seized a Zionist passenger bus and forced its civilian occupants to disembark. Our revolutionaries clashed with the occupation forces in a swift battle. They burned the bus and left the scene of the operation in the midst of the terror gripping the occupation forces' circles in that area. Our revolutionaries managed to return safely to base.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted this daring operation. He said that it took place near the Jabalyah refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip. He added that this operation was similar to one which took place on Monday near Hebron in the occupied West Bank. It is to be noted that the Zionist military spokesman did not admit the Hebron operation at the time.

KUWAIT

Government Resigns Following Elections

LD231057 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0944 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Feb (KUNA) — The Kuwaiti Government resigned today. The resignation follows the announcement of the final results of the general elections 2 days ago. Fifty members have been elected for the sixth legislative National Assembly in the history of Kuwait.

Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, tendered his government's resignation to Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah following a short cabinet meeting this morning.

Amir Issues Order Reappointing Prime Minister

LD241036 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Here is the Amir's order appointing a prime minister: After taking cognizance of Articles 56 and 57 of the Constitution and our order dated 23 February 1985 accepting the resignation of the prime minister, we order the following:

Article 1: Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent, is to be appointed prime minister of the Council of Ministers and to be charged with nominating the members of the new cabinet and to submit their names to us to issue the decree for their appointment.

Article 2: The prime minister is to implement this order of ours and to convey it to the National Assembly. It becomes effective from the date of issue and is to be published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] The Amir of Kuwait, Jabir al-Ahmad; issued at Al-Sayif Palace on 24 February 1985

Nationalists Gain Seats in Assembly Elections

GF241320 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Nationalists made a major comeback to Kuwait's National Assembly in Wednesday's elections. Out of 31 new faces in the 50-man assembly line-up five are nationalists. Their success this year followed a dismal showing in the 1981 elections.

Fundamentalists also won a handful of seats, but two of their strongest members in the last assembly, 'Isa Majid al-Shahin and Khalid Sultan were defeated.

Despite the gains by the nationalists and fundamentalists, the government is thought to have retained at least 50 percent of its support in the assembly. But it lost one of its staunchest allies with the shock defeat of the former speaker, Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani. In the last assembly, 'Adasani was instrumental in beating off the debates against government draft bills. 'Adasani, who is also a former Kuwait ambassador to Lebanon, and a former planning minister, was defeated by lawyer Faysal al-Sani', a nationalist and Jasim al-'Awn, a leading fundamentalist member of the previous assembly.

The success for the nationalists, led by Dr Ahmad al-Khatib, was described as "something of an earthquake by Kuwaiti standards," by one Kuwaiti journalist.

Two controversial academics are among the successful nationalist candidates: Dr 'Abdallah al-Nafisi and Ahmad al-Rab'i. During their election campaigns, the nationalists promised social and economic reforms, including votes for women, and pledged to end what they called "favouritism." The emergence of the nationalists, who were not represented in the previous assembly, is seen as an indicator of a vigorous opposition bloc in the assembly.

Apart from the defeat of 'Adasani, there were other shock results in the elections for which there was an 85 percent voter turn out.

The chairman of the last assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, Jasim al-Saqr lost his seat, as did the owner of the Kuwait Hyatt Regency, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Sani'. The defeat of these two veteran parliamentarians, along with 'Adasani, was seen as a blow to government support within the assembly. But local analysts believe that at least 25 of the 50 members of the new assembly do back the government.

The loss of 'Adasani has also put a question mark over the post of speaker. The deputy speaker in the last assembly has emerged as the leading contender. A bitter critic of government policy, Ahmad al-Sa'dun is known as a reformist. But some analysts say that despite his criticism of government policy he does enjoy government support

His main challenger for the post of speaker is likely to be Yusuf al-Mukhlid, who was deputy speaker in the fourth assembly but lost his seat in the 1981 elections. Other members whose names have been put forward as possible contenders are Faysal al-Sani'; the former chairman of the assembly's Financial and Economic Committee, Jasim al-Khurafi, and the former undersecretary at the Communications Ministry, 'Abd al-Rahman al-Ghunaym.

Newspapers Comment on Election Results

ARAB TIMES: Nationalists Gain

GF241330 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Feb 85 pp 1, 5

[Text] Kuwaitis have chosen a new National Assembly opting for surprise changes which diplomats say signal mounting concern over the government's social and economic policies.

More than half of the members seeking re-election were defeated and the new faces range right across the political spectrum. There is widespread belief that a new strong government is now needed to work with the new assembly.

Despite frequent allegations of bribery and other irregularities among candidates, diplomats hailed the government's handling of the polls as "a model of fair play." "The fact that polls are

held at all in this region is unique. On top of that they have let in some harsh opponents," said one.

Arab nationalists, the opposition in the 1960s and 1970s scored a five-seat comeback after failing dismally four years ago. Seeking to diversify the oil-reliant economy and widen the franchise, they also favour constitutional changes.

As expected, the conservatives will again dominate the assembly, but they appear now to include a broader circle of so-called reformists and technocrats prepared to question state policy. A front-runner among these is Jasim al-Khurafi, chairman of the former assembly's finance and economic committee whom diplomats watched as an election "weathervane," to measure public opinion of state economic policies. After sustained attacks on the government's handling of the economy, Khurafi pulled in 50 per cent more votes than in 1981.

Among the "old guard", both the speaker, Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani and the foreign affairs committee chairman, Jasim al-Saqr, suffered shock defeats by nationalists.

The nationalist candidates showed clear gains over the fundamentalists and the conservatives, but despite what political commentators said was a "surprise" trend, political and diplomatic sources said they anticipated little change in foreign policy and close links with neighboring states.

The Kuwaiti News Agency reported a 85 per cent turnout by 56,848 eligible voters.

The results, released by the Interior Ministry, showed that 21 candidates won seats at the expense of Muslim fundamentalist and conservative groupings. The 31 new assembly men, including four candidates were elected and 19 retained their seats in the Sixth National Assembly.

Prominent among the successful nationalists was Dr Ahmad al-Khatib, who lost his seat in the last general elections and heads the "democratic group" which insists on an independent state for the Palestinians. The nationalists also favor economic and social reforms.

Voters favored the nationalists calls for economic and social reforms and rejected re-election bids by at least three fundamentalists. The results "showed a retreat in religious attitudes and growing tendency to support nationalist candidates," a political commentator said.

Following publication of the results, the government headed by Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah was declared out of office and will formally resign today.

Under the 1967 Kuwaiti Constitution Shaykh Sa'd will also head the next government and began consultations with HH the Amir on the new ministers while voting continued.

Diplomats said the new assembly is expected to question state policy more vigorously than in the past. Technocrats who scored major gains are expected to be more willing than their predecessors to question government action. "The government will have to be more alert in dealing with the new assembly. It is going to be a lot more lively," one diplomat said in an initial assessment of the poll results.

Assembly's Responsibilities

GF241422 Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Feb 85 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "On the Margin of the Outcome of Parliamentary Elections."]

[Excerpt] From various aspects, the results of the parliamentary elections show that we are at one of important crossroads in our Kuwaiti political and democratic march.

We will not be analysing here these results. However, we believe that we should all rise to the responsibility more than ever before, in dealing with each other. One of the bases of this responsibility is that no party should be rash in dealing with the situation. We know very well that we are a small country which cannot bear more than its burden. We must not ignore the conflicts taking place in the Arab arena and regional and international polarizations. Thus our responsibility to preserve our country's security and stability is greater. Consequently, we will continue our march toward democracy and freedom, as shown by the credibility of the recent elections.

Kuwait, under its Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, is proud of its achievements and feels that it is making great efforts toward its goals of progress, prosperity and justice for all. That is why we believe restraint and disciplined stands and practices preserve security for all and preserve, first of all, Kuwait's security and peace. We all know that Kuwait is being watched and observed. Indeed, more than one party, which cannot be ignored, are not satisfied over Kuwait's democratic march or its nationalist stand. We reiterate that this small homeland which has been generous to all of us and has given us so much graces and riches, requires us to be generous and to understand its positions, whether on the domestic level or on the regional Arab and international levels.

This democratic experience, and our eagerness for this experience to continue and expand our march, requires us to be wiser, more reasonable, and not rash.

Need for Strong Government

GF241658 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 23 Feb 85 p 8

[From the "Opinion" column by chief editor Ahmad al-Jarallah: "Now the Need Is for Strong Government"]

[Text] The new Assembly needs some time to settle down and produce an effective majority. It is a mixture of different trends, with a few deputies belonging to each. The prime minister should therefore form a strong government capable of facing the new assembly.

Newspaper reports said that HH the crown prince and prime minister had been reviewing the proposed names for a long time. They said that some people had declined to join the Cabinet while others had agreed. The newspapers also said that a good number of the former Cabinet would retain their posts in the new one for well-known reasons.

The ministers need to change their tactics. The government yielded to the previous assembly on many issues, though it was supposed to be strong, especially in some matters in which the people were opposed to the Assembly. These included a number of strict laws, some exaggerated demands, and the delay in solving the stock exchange crisis to the extent that the crisis became complicated.

A high percentage of voters turned out for the elections and this indicates that the Kuwaiti people have reacted to the calls and statements of candidates during their election campaigns. The big response to the election means that the public is placing high hopes in the new Assembly and expects much from it.

The government must be strong because the present Assembly has been chosen by a strong popular franchise, and has many demands to fulfill. This needs a strong government.

PNC Speaker Arrives To Discuss Arab Issues

LD222318 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb KUNA -- The speaker of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), the parliament in exile, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, arrived here tonight on an official visit. He will have talks with a number of officials dealing with the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and the current Arab issues. Al-Sa'ih will leave for Aden to attend the Arab parliamentary conference due to be held there next week.

Meets With Amir

JN241718 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih met with the Kuwaiti amir in Kuwait this morning. He also met with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister. Shaykh Salman al-Du'ayj al-Sabah, minister of justice, legal and administrative affairs, and the PLO representative in Kuwait attended the meeting.

AL-QABAS on Jordanian-PLO Agreement, Arab Summit

GF241740 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 23 Feb 85 p 22

[Excerpt] Well-informed Arab sources have told *AL-QABAS* that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has undermined an Arab understanding with Syria to hold an Arab summit conference in Riyadh in the spring.

These sources said that agreement to hold the summit was reached following contacts made by Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries with Syria. They added that Syrian officials agreed to participate in the summit after obtaining assurances that the subject of the return of Egypt to the Arab ranks will not be discussed at the conference.

The sources continued: However, a few days after this understanding was reached, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was announced, undermining the probability of holding an Arab summit conference during the next few months. The question raised in diplomatic Arab circles is: Was the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement announcement a step to undermine the understanding reached with Syria following the visit to Syria by Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, or a step to include this agreement in the agenda of the next Arab summit following the achievement of this understanding?

What *AL-QABAS* has been able to ascertain, through reliable Arab sources, is that Jordanian officials have informed several countries and Arab and European sides that, following the Amman agreement, they made intensive contacts for holding a comprehensive Arab summit during the next 2 months. They aim to obtain official Arab support for the Amman agreement. King Husayn hopes that such a summit conference will be held before May when he is due to visit the United States.

These sources pointed out that Jordanian officials have clearly stressed to the aforementioned sides that King Husayn will not accept holding negotiations with Israel on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip without an Arab agreement or wide Arab support which he prefers to obtain at an Arab summit. The Palestinian leadership shares this view with King Husayn.

Jordanian officials were also eager to stress to the countries and Arab sides they recently contacted that King Husayn views the Amman agreement as paving the way for a comprehensive peace on all fronts, not just the Jordanian-Palestinian front. They said that King Husayn will not move along this path if he thinks this agreement would lead only to a separate peace agreement with Israel -- and hence the need for a comprehensive Arab summit conference to discuss the Amman agreement and have it approved, according to the Jordanian officials.

Is the holding of this conference possible in these circumstances? Will Syria attend such a conference following the announcement of the Amman agreement? Arab sources close to the Syrian regime have told *AL-QABAS* that President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed to Saudi and other Arab sides that Syria regards the holding of an Arab summit which intends to discuss the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as unacceptable.

They said that Al-Asad considers discussing this issue at an Arab summit to mean acceptence of the status quo by most Arab countries; namely, acceptance of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. They continued: Al-Asad has said that Syria will boycott such a summit conference unless it is held to discuss situations in the Arab world, peace probabilities, and an understanding on a comprehensive united plan based on the Arab peace plan approved at the Fes conference.

In this situation Syria would welcome such a conference and participate in it.

OMAN

Sultan Receives King Fahd's Message on U.S. Trip

GF231716 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Muscat, Feb 23 (Gna) -- Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman received a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the outcome of King Fahd's recent visit to the United States. The message was delivered by Saudi Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Ibrahim ibn 'Abdallah al-'Anqari during his reception by Sultan Qabus here today. The Saudi minister arrived here today on a short visit to Oman.

Minister Receives Kuwaiti Message on Gulf Issues

GF231717 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Muscat Feb 23 (GNA) -- Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah received a written message from Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Information and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, dealing with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, the Arab and international situation in general and the Gulf in particular. The message was conveyed by Kuwaiti Ambassador to Oman 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abd al-Wahhab al-'Uthman during his reception by Omani Foreign Undersecretary Sayf ibn Hamad al-Battash here today. They reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest within the framework of the GCC.

QATAR

Further Reportage on Visit of Turkish Minister

Comments on Mideast Issues

GF221822 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1717 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Doha, 22 Feb (WAKH) -- Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu has expressed regret for the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, pointing out that his country is exerting every effort to guarantee the achievement of a peaceful solution between the two countries. In a press conference held today in Doha, the Turkish foreign minister said that his country made direct efforts with both Iraq and Iran, in addition to the efforts it has been exerting through the Islamic Conference Organization to stop this war.

The Turkish foreign minister said in his press conference that it was agreed between his country and Iraq to establish another oil pipeline to transport Iraqi oil across Turkey in addition to the agreement with Iran -- "in principle" -- to establish two pipelines for transporting Iranian oil and gas across Turkey. He explained that the proposed Iranian gas pipeline will cost between $10 billion and $12 billion.

The Turkish minister, who is currently visiting the state of Qatar as part of a Gulf tour, expressed his country's desire to develop relations with the Arab Gulf states. He also expressed the hope that the upcoming stage will witness a marked development in commercial and economic relations between Qatar and Turkey in the interest of both countries, and expressed the hope that cooperation agreements in these fields will be signed during the next visit to Turkey by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, pointing out that the final touches on three agreements in this regard have already been made.

Armenian Terrorism; Greece

TA231205 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1100 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu has said he does not believe the threats by Armenian terrorist organizations will affect the French court currently hearing the case in connection with the Orly massacre. In a statement to an ANATOLIA AGENCY correspondent in Doha, the capital of Qatar, Halefoglu said it is unthinkable for judicial organs, no matter where they are, to decide under the influence of terrorist organizations.

Referring to relations with Greece, Halefoglu noted that there has not been any change in the policy in regard to relations with Greece. Halefoglu stressed that Turkey has always favored solving its problems with Greece through negotiations. In reply to a remark that Greece is making a serious effort to increase its territorial waters to 12 miles, Halefoglu said that Turkey will definitely not make any concession on this matter.

Commenting on the situation of Turks in Bulgaria, the foreign minister announced that if the problem cannot be solved, Turkey is willing to draw up a new immigration agreement.

Halefoglu, who held talks in Qatar with Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani and other officials on bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Middle East situation, went to the UAE today.

Departs for UAE

GF231309 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Doha, 23 Feb (WAKH) -- Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu left Doha for Abu Dhabi today following a 3-day official visit to Qatar. Upon his departure, the minister was seen off by Qatari Foreign minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani and Turkish Ambassador in Doha (Austin Dungman).

SAUDI ARABIA

Riyadh Reports Crash of Air Force Transport

GF241840 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Feb 85

["Text" of statement by the Ministry of Defense and Aviation on 24 February -- read by announcer]

[Text] While returning from a training mission today, Sunday, a Saudi Royal Air Force C-130 crashed on its approach at Riyadh Airbase at 1321 after its wing touched the runway. The 8-member crew were all killed. They are four Air Force officers,

three technical sergeants, and one technician on contract. No others were killed in this regrettable incident.

In announcing the deaths of its Air Force officers, the technical sergeants, and their colleague on contract, the Saudi Armed Forces extend their sincere condolences to the families and relatives of the martyrs on duty. "From God we came and to Him we will return." [Koranic verse].

Concerned military authorities are currently investigating the incident.

Jordanian Interior Minister Arrives for Talks 24 Feb

LD250648 Riyadh SPA in English 1905 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 24, SPA-Jordanian Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar arrived here today on a few days visit to Saudi Arabia.

On his arrival, he told reporters that he would hold talks with Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on questions of common concern, as well as ways of boosting security cooperation between the two countries. He described the Saudi-Jordanian relations as "strong and based on firm basis."

For his part, Prince Nayif expressed his pleasure with 'Arar's visit, adding that contacts between officials of the two countries created chance for discussing all issues of mutual concern.

UAE

Reportage on Visit of Turkish Foreign Minister

Arrives 23 Feb

GF231714 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb, 23 (GNA) Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu arrived here today from Doha, on a three-day visit to the UAE as part of a tour of a number of states in the region.

In a statement on arrival, Halefoglu said that his visit will further boost the cordial and advanced relations between the two countries. He added that he will prepare for the planned visit of Turkish President Kenan Evren to the UAE next April. He also said that he will hold talks with UAE officials on a number of issues in the framework of the UAE-Turkish joint economic committee.

The minister was greeted at the airport by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs and Taner Baytok, Turkish ambassador to the UAE.

Received by President

GF241150 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 24 Feb (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received in Abu Dhabi today Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu who is currently visiting the UAE.

In a statement following the meeting, the Turkish minister said that the situation in the region in light of recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war was discussed during the meeting. He expressed his country's readiness to play a positive role with the Islamic countries to put a limit to this destructive war, particularly since Turkey has good relations with both sides of the conflict.

He stressed Turkey's desire to bolster firm relations and to strengthen joint cooperation with the UAE and the Islamic countries and said: "The Turkish people greatly respect the role that has been played by the UAE president in constructing bridges of cooperation and friendship between Turkey and the Arab and Islamic countries, especially after the president's recent official visit to Turkey."

Holds Talks With Counterpart

GF241706 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 24 Feb (WAKH) — UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah conferred here today with Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu. The meeting reviewed bilateral relations, the current developments in the Middle East, the Palestine issue, and the situation in the Gulf region.

In a statement after the meeting, UAE Acting Foreign Undersecretary Yaqub al-Kindi said that 'Abdallah affirmed the need to find a lasting and just settlement for the Middle East crisis, based on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people for self-determination and establishment of their own independent state. He stressed that there would be no peace in the Middle East without finding a solution for the Palestinian issue, which he said was the "core" of the Middle East conflict.

The two sides affirmed the need to end the 53-month old Iraq-Iran war.

Mr Halefoglu, in a statement after the meeting, said the two parties reviewed bilateral relations, the current situation in the Middle East and the developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

AL-ITTIHAD on Reagan's Middle East Remarks

GF230716 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 23 Feb (WAM) — In its editorial today, a local newspaper deals with U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statement on the Middle East. The newspaper calls on the Arabs to treat this statement as a cue that achieving Arab demands is not in the hands of the United States or the USSR, but in the hands of the Arabs. *AL-ITTIHAD* says: In his statement, the U.S. President clarified some Arab points regarding his country's stand and efforts to achieve a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper says that this statement must not be ignored "because it appears to be directed at us, the Arabs, foremost."

AL-ITTIHAD concludes from this statement that the U.S. stand on the Middle East is that it is not prepared to participate in any negotiations on the Middle East at the present time and that it only calls for direct negotiations with Israel.

The newspaper notes that this statement came amid visits being made to the U.S. capital by some of the most important Arab leaders "whose countries have the closest bonds and strongest relations with the United States. However, these bonds and relations have clashed and will continue to clash with the unjust U.S. stand toward the Arabs and its completely biased stand toward the Arabs' enemies." *AL-ITTIHAD* calls on the Arabs not to fear this U.S. stand. The Arabs are capable of forcing the United States to act, if the Arabs agree on a unified stand, make a collective determination, and have confidence in their capabilities.

In conclusion, the newspaper emphasizes that exposing the stand of other parties, particularly the United States, is the best incentive for us to agree that preparations for confrontation is the best way for a settlement. We quote the true saying that "Whoever seeks death is given life."

PDRY

DPRK Delegation Meets Al-'Attas, Ends Visit

GF221510 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received at his office the DPRK Government delegation, led by the general director at the DPRK Foreign Trade Ministry.

Brother al-'Attas handed him two letters from Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, for Comrade Kim Il-song, DPRK president and general secretary of the Korean Workers Party. The letters concerned bilateral relations; cooperation in technical fields, and the emphasis of the PDRY party, government, and people on solidarity with the people of the friendly DPRK people against the provocative imperialist maneuvers designed to be carried out this year.

During the meeting, Brother al-'Attas referred to the visit last year of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to the DPRK and said that it was an important turning point in the friendship and cooperation relations between the two countries, which were crowned by the signing of the friendship and cooperation treaty and the economic and technical protocol. He affirmed the eagerness of the PDRY Government to develop its relations with the DPRK Government in various fields. He also stressed PDRY support for the peaceful efforts exerted by the DPRK Government to reunite Korea on peaceful bases and its denunciation of all imperialist aggressive provocations to which the DPRK is being subjected.

The Korean delegation leader warmly congratulated Brother al-'Attas on his election as chairman of the Council of Ministers. He conveyed to him and through him to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad regards from Comrade Kim Il-song and the DPRK prime minister. Concluding the meeting, Brother al-'Attas asked the delegation leader to convey regards from Chairman 'Ali and himself to Comrade Kim Il-song and the DPRK prime minister.

The meeting was also attended by Brother Mahmud 'Abdallah 'Arashi, chairman of the local People's Council Executive Bureau in Aden and DPRK Ambassador Myong Chang-son. The DPRK delegation today concluded its visit to our country.

Reportage on Visit of Ethiopian Party Official

Arrives 23 Feb

GF231852 Aden ANA in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Aden, 23 Feb (ANA) — Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia arrived in Aden today on an official and amiable visit to our country that will last several days.

In a statement to ANA, he said that he is carrying a message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, from Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, chairman of the provisional military administrative council, and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Armed Forces on bolstering the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly parties and countries.

Received by Chairman

GF232020 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received in his office today Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, who gave him a message from Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, and commander in chief of the Ethiopian Armed Forces, on a number of issues of mutual concern.

During the meeting, the developments in the region, bilateral relations, and the struggle relations between the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions and between the YSP and the Workers Party of Ethiopia and the dimensions of their development were discussed.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad asked Comrade Ashagre Yigletu to convey his greetings to Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam. He expressed his satisfaction for the development of the cooperation and friendship relations between our country and Ethiopia. He affirmed that those strategic relations serve the interests of the two friendly peoples and the struggle and liberation issues of the region's people against imperialism and reac-

tionaryism. He also affirmed PDRY's solidarity with the Ethiopian people's struggle to confront all the plots and difficulties they are facing. He expressed his confidence that the Ethiopian people, who safeguarded their revolution and remain victorious, will resume their revolutionary march in order to achieve further successes in the development and progress of the Ethiopian people.

Meanwhile, Comrade Ashagre Yigletu expressed his happiness to meet with the chairman and affirmed that the revolutionary accomplishments and changes which the PDRY is achieving is regarded as a gain for the Ethiopian revolution and the Ethiopian people.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister; and the Ethiopian ambassador in Aden.

Joint Talks Begin

GF241034 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Party-level talks between the YSP and the Workers Party of Ethiopia began at the Secretariat of the YSP Central Committee yesterday. The talks were led by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Ethiopia.

During the talks, the two sides expressed their great satisfaction at the level of relations between the two parties and the friendly countries in various fields. While reviewing developments in the Arab and African situations, the two sides expressed the importance of holding meetings and consultations, particularly because the imperialist, reactionary, Zionist, and racist assault against the liberation forces in the Arab region and in Africa is intensifying.

Mubarak Receives Sudanese, U.S. Visitors

Sudanese Assembly Speaker

NC241436 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received 'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid, Sudanese People's Assembly speaker, at Al-'Urubah Presidential Palace this morning. The Sudanese official said that his meeting was part of the ongoing process of bilateral consultations on integration issues. He added that his meeting dealt with the upcoming Nile Valley Parliament session in Khartoum. He said that if was agreed to hold this session before the opening of the African summit conference.

The Sudanese People's Assembly speaker pointed out that the talks dealt with recent progress in the integration process. He added that President Mubarak emphasized the need to expedite the implementation of industrial and agricultural projects in both countries' public and private sectors. Answering a question on the date of President Numayri's meeting with President Reagan, 'Izz al-Din al-Sayyid said that President Numayri has commitments in Sudan. He will attend an agricultural conference in the north on 26 February. President Numayri will also meet with U.S. Vice President Bush on 4 March.

U.S. Commerce Delegation

NC241536 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] At the Al-'Urubah Presidential Palace this afternoon, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a delegation representing the Egyptian-U.S. Chambers of Commerce in Cairo. The meeting was attended by (Sam Zavaki), chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; (Kurt Helend), deputy chairman of the Board of Directors of the U.S.-Egyptian Chambers of Commerce representing the U.S. side; and Muhammad Shafiq Badr, deputy chairman of the Board of Directors representing the Egyptian side.

(Zavaki) made a statement saying that the delegation came in order to express its full support for President Mubarak in his upcoming visit to Washington and for the president's endeavors to ensure an increase in U.S. aid to Egypt and more investment . He said that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will do its utmost to enable the president to attain all his objectives. He expressed his belief that the atmosphere for investment in Egypt is positive, adding that Egypt is a good place for foreign companies to invest their money and thus contribute toward promoting the Egyptian economy.

Sierra Leonean President Stevens Visits Cairo

Mubarak Welcomes Stevens

NC241412 [Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 1240 GMT on 24 February interrupts its 1230 GMT newscast for a live relay of a welcoming ceremony for Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens from Cairo's Al-Qubbah Palace.

At 1234 GMT, the announcer notes that the car carrying Presidents Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Siaka Stevens has arrived. The presidents then proceed to a platform, and both countries' national anthems are played. Afterward, the announcer states that the two presidents are inspecting an honor guard. At 1247 GMT, two children present flowers to the presidents. Siaka Stevens, the announcer adds, shakes hands with key Egyptian officials, including Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. At 1251 GMT, the announcer states that the presidents, and their delegations, are entering Al-Qubbah Palace. The live relay ends at 1252 GMT without any speeches being broadcast.

Mubarak Makes Banquet Speech

NC242036 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Speech delivered by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at dinner banquet in honor of Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens in 'Abidin Palace on 24 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the most gracious and the most merciful. Dear brother and friend, President Siaka Stevens; dear brothers: You are welcome on this pure African land as faithful friends, honest brothers, sincere comrades on the road to struggle for freedom and dignity, and true advocators of peace and justice among all nations and people.

We appreciate your eagerness, dear brother, to consolidate the friendly relations and solidarity between our two countries and people. We also appreciate the principled stands that you have always adopted alongside the Egyptian people in their constant endeavors to bring about a comprehensive peace in the region, and to establish the Third World people's right to strengthen their political, economic, and cultural independence; to achieve economic and comprehensive social development; to exercise the right to chose their own path and formulate their own future in such a way as to achieve their legitimate interests and safeguard their just rights.

We likewise appreciate the role you have been carrying out in the African and international arenas since your election as chairman of the OAU in 1980, and your insistence on building relations within the African community based on close cooperation,common interest, and future. This profound belief in the unity of the struggling African movement was evident in your eagerness to maintain good relations with neighboring states, your active role within the framework of the economic group of west African states, and the wise policy you are pursuing to support the OAU.

We welcome the consolidation of relations with your fraternal country and the promotion of cooperation in all fields in order to achieve the mutual interests of our two people and deepen belief in the unity of the African struggle and the inevitability of victory for the people's will. We will devote our talks toward achieving this goal, arriving at new horizons in fraternal cooperation, and joint action for common objectives.

Meanwhile, we believe that the challenges facing us require an increase in our efforts to end the current differences existing

among some African states. These differences are not based on real contradictions in strategic interests, but reflect a mistaken view of events and a failure to absorb the lessons of history.

The real interests of the African masses agree to support the Namibian people in their heroic struggle to implement UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 without attaching this to any conditions or foreign factors. They also agree to support our brothers in South Africa in their glorious revolt against injustice, oppression, and racism.

The main challenge that we face together is our confrontation with the grinding problems threatening the future of our peoples. The foremost of these are problems resulting from drought, shortage of income, and the inequality in rights and duties between advanced industrial states of the north and developing states in the south.

We must face these issues with a comprehensive view, firm determination, and continuous serious work. This means that we must all be committed to the success of the forthcoming African economic summit conference and to translate the Lagos action plan into a stable policy dealing with economic problems.

Dear brother and friend: The noble principles to which you adhere in your policy and actions are clearly reflected in your continuous support for the Palestinian people's struggle for right, justice, and their right to self-determination and the establishment of a state on their soil.

I have no doubt that you, like us, have welcomed the step taken by the PLO and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to present a peace challenge to Israel and confront it with the responsibility for realizing a comprehensive historical conciliation to end the conflict for good and open a new chapter in the region's history. Therefore, you demand with us a firm adherence to this positive stand and provide it with the necessary opportunity to influence various attitudes and repair the image of the Palestinian struggle in the international arena.

Furthermore, you agree with us on the need to stop the sanguinary events and repressive terroristic atmosphere prevailing in south Lebanon at a time when we are dutybound to guarantee the end of Israel's occupation of this fraternal country, which is the main cause of violence and tension. It generates nothing but suffering, pain, and division.

We have committed ourselves to ending this sad chapter and paving the way for the start of a new era. Flags of peace, tolerance, and fraternity will then fly in opposition to the ideas of occupation and the recourse to war and violence in order to consolidate a fait accompli from which all peoples in the region are suffering.

Dear brothers, permit me to invite you to stand in salutation of our dear friend President Siaka Stevens and all present friends, all the sons of the fraternal people of Sierra Leone, and the close ties between our two countries and peoples. God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Stevens Gives Banquet Speech

NC242109 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1909 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Speech delivered by Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens at a dinner banquet hosted in his honor at 'Abidin Palace in Cairo by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak — recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency, President Husni Mubarak; their excellencies the prime minister, the People's Assembly speaker, and ministers; dear brothers: I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and that of the delegation accompanying me for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to me upon my arrival in your good country.

Your Excellency the president: We have noted the signs of friendship that link the Sierra Leonean and Egyptian peoples. I take this opportunity to convey the best regards of the people and Government in Sierra Leone to the Egyptian people and Government.

Your Excellency, our unstable world faces multifaceted problems and threats against peace. Therefore, we believe that it is necessary for world leaders to cooperate in order to exchange expertise and find solutions to common problems. Your Excellency, from this premise I accepted the invitation to visit your great country and see your great people. Our objective is to reemphasize the concept of African unity and discuss the pressing issues that face our continent in particular and the world in general.

Sierra Leone and Egypt, being UN and OAU members as well as members of the Nonaligned Movement, have certain common values and aspirations. Our countries have contributed positively to safeguarding world peace and security. The endless conflicts in the Middle East as well as the situation in Namibia and South Africa, where our friends and kinfolk are fighting for the sake of a dignified and honorable life, make it incumbent upon us to step up our efforts until the Palestinians attain their homeland, Namibia attains its independence, and the majority of the people in South Africa can participate in the government.

Your Excellency, Namibia continues to represent a great challenge to the international community. This is true, for despite the numerous UN resolutions calling on South Africa to grant Namibia independence, South Africa still insists on its stand. We again reject the involvement of any foreign factors that would complicate efforts toward achieving Namibia's independence.

I must frankly declare that Egypt has given every means of financial and material aid to liberation movements in Africa over the past 2 decades. This aid was important in rendering a successful struggle for liberation.

Your Excellency, the economic difficulties that face our continent are huge and enormous. The drought has stricken a number of African states and caused starvation and food shortages in many states. This has prompted many people to cross borders in their search for food. It seems that our continent is the only one that has been greatly harmed. At a time when the international community's response is encouraging, many steps

should be made to curb the drought and desertification. Since the drought will continue for some time, specific policies must be formulated to confront this catastrophe. International aid in such matters can only complement our own efforts to search for better conditions of life. Therefore, the upcoming OAU summit conference is convening at an appropriate time and will dedicate itself to discussing this economic situation in the continent.

Your Excellency, our world is surrounded with crises that threaten world peace and security. We will have the chance to exchange views on these and other issues. I am quite hopeful that this exchange of views will consolidate peace in our world.

Mr President, we in Sierra Leone follow with great interest your government's efforts to regain the occupied land. We are hopeful that these lands will be regained through peaceful negotiations.

Finally, Mr President, allow me to express my government's gratitude for the assistance that Egypt has given to Sierra Leone over the past years in all fields, particularly in the training of manpower. We feel grateful to your government for lending us a number of experts to assist our government in the field of development. There is no doubt that this cooperation must contribute toward resolving the problems of our Third World. We are confident that we might discover new aspects of cooperation that will serve our two countries and people.

Distinguished guests: Allow me to invite you to stand in salutation of His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government.

Long live the relations between Egypt and Sierra Leone and long live African unity. Thank you. [applause]

NDP Political Bureau Holds Meeting 24 Feb

NC241442 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The NDP Political Bureau convened this morning under the chairmanship of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The meeting was also attended by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak's meeting with the expanded political group touched on a number of foreign and domestic issues, primarilythe Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the steps taken to achieve this agreement, and Egypt's role in supporting the Palestinian cause at this critical stage. The session also dealt with both Arab and international reaction to this agreement. The president reviewed Egypt's contacts and consultations within the framework of Egyptian-Jordanian coordination.

Safwat al-Sharif said that Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid submitted a report on the contacts and talks undertaken during his visits to Washington, London, and Paris. The president reviewed the political topics to be discussed during his own visit to the United States. The Palestinian problem, which represents the core of the Middle East conflict, will dominate all other issues during these talks.

Safwat al-Sharif added that President Mubarak had pointed out that Egypt's move — with all its weight and distinguished international relations — intends to serve the issues of its Arab nation and that Egypt's strength is in the service of all Arabs.

Continuing his statement, the information minister said that the conferees discussed a number of domestic issues and party moves for the next stage.

Ghali, Delegation Depart for Addis Ababa

NC221502 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Cairo this afternoon en route to Addis Ababa, leading a delegation that will attend the African foreign ministers conference, opening on Monday.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Ghali said that the conference will be divided into two stages: The first will be devoted to discussing ways to tackle Africa's economic problems, including drought; the seconed will incorporate ordinary sessions seeking to find solutions and joint action programs to confront the economic crisis threatening Africa and its future.

Economic Cooperation Agreements Signed With GDR

NC221911 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Egypt and the GDR signed several agreements today intended to further develop bilateral economic cooperation. The agreements provide for cooperation in the storage and treatment of grains and in increasing the efficiency of rice and wheat hulling facilities.

They were signed for Egypt by Dr Naji Shatlah, minister of supply and internal trade, who is currently visiting Berlin; and for the GDR by Dr Guenther Kleiber, minister of general engineering, agricultural machinery, and vehicle building.

Dr Shaltah and GDR officials also signed an agreement on long-term cooperation in food processing.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Views PLO-Jordanian Accord

NC222241 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — Hans van den Broek, Netherlands minister of foreign affairs, emphasized that the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is an important step in the peace process. He said that the agreement has received the support of numerous circles in the United States, Europe, and the Arab world.

In a statement to *AL-AHRAM* to be published in Saturday's edition, the Netherlands minister said that there are important factors for achieving peace in the Middle East and that the most important of these is the PLO's recognition of Israel's right to

exist within secure borders, and Israel's recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. These two factors are important mainstays of the Venice declaration.

The Netherlands minister pointed out that it is important to achieve a solution for the Middle Eastern question on the basis of the UN resolutions, the most important of which are resolutions Nos 242 and 338. He said that the UN resolutions include extremely important factors, primarily the impermissibility of the forceful occupation of other people's lands, and recognition of the people's right to live in peace. He said: We recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Netherlands foreign minister underlined the significance of Egypt's vital role in encouraging the reactivation of the peace process. He pointed out that Egypt has played a significant role in serving the Palestinian question and that a peace treaty links it with Israel.

Regarding the role the European Community could play between the Arabs and Israel, the Netherlands minister said: We must exploit our contacts with the Arab world, with Israel, and with the United States in order to encourage the reactivation of the peace process.

The Netherlands minister pointed out that diplomacy has an important role to play, and added: It is in the interest of the United States and Europe that a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace be achieved.

Departs Cairo 23 Feb

NC231935 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Netherlands Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek left Cairo this afternoon following a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Netherlands foreign minister held important talks on various forms of bilateral cooperation. The talks also involved a discussion of international issues of interest to both countries, particularly the Middle East issue. Emphasis was placed on the Palestinian question since if is the crux of the Middle East problem and in light of new developments in the area, particularly the Jordanian-Palestinian accord. The Lebanese issue, the anticipated European role in the Middle East peace process, the Iraq-Iran war, and various African issues were also discussed.

Iraqi Finance Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC231518 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Iraqi Finance Minister Hisham Hasan Tawfiq arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a 1-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The Iraqi minister will leave Cairo for Tunis, where he will attend a meeting of the Economic and Social Council on 25-26 February.

Political Parties Support Jordanian-PLO Agreement

NC232009 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1790 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — The Egyptian parties support the recent agreement between the Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO, the text of which was made public today by acting Jordanian Information Minister Tahir Hikmat.

Counsellor Mumtaz Nassar, leader of the parliamentary opposition in the People's Assembly, the New Wafd Party, stressed that the agreement is a blessed step around which all Arabs should rally, adding that we have had enough of past divisions. He said that this agreement is a bold step that places responsibility on the shoulders of Israel and the United States. The situation has now become defined and clear; it means that Arabs have opted for peace and that Israel and the United States should well understand the significance of this.

Engineer Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Socialist Labor Party, expressed hope that this step will have an effect on reaching a just solution to the Palestinian issue. He said: This start and its results represent a good move for the issue. He called for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement to be the beginning of Arab contacts and of a single Arab opinion on solving the Palestinian problem. He pointed out that the convocation of an international peace conference is a concept in line with a situation to guarantee the Palestinian people's rights.

Ahmad al-Sabahi, leader of the Al-Ummah Party, declared his party's support for the agreement. He described it as a blessed step on the path to a comprehensive and just peace for the region. He said that his party supports the establishment of a confederation between the people of Jordan and Palestine and the holding of an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

The Central Committee of the National Progressive Unionist group will hold a meeting tomorrow morning, Sunday, under the party leader, Khalid Muhyi al-Din to study the text of the agreement and to issue a statement about it.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Criticizes Israeli Policy in Lebanon

NC230637 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA) — In a commentary to be published in its Saturday edition, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* criticizes Israeli crimes in Lebanon and the Israeli occupation forces' savage attacks on southern Lebanese villages. The paper emphasizes that the Lebanese national resistance forces will not retreat, despite arrests and the destruction of villages. In fact, their numbers and activities will increase in proportion to Israeli brutality and represession.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Israel's forced withdrawal from Lebanon reflects absolutely no change in its policies or intentions toward peace. That withdrawal was actually the result of an escalation of activity by the Lebanese resistance forces, and Israel's inability to bear the huge cost, in terms of blood and material, of its stay in Lebanon.

The paper explains that the peace Israel wants is one built upon the expansion of the Israeli forces and their unrestricted advance into undefended Arab territory.

Therefore, it was not strange for former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to say during the invasion of Lebanon that, unless Israel's strategic plans are achieved, the Arab states will not be disarmed.

The paper concludes its commentary by noting that the recent acts of aggression against Lebanon essentially prove that Israeli hawks have refused to recognize the failure of their strategy of expansion and armed aggression.

This is the policy they have been committed to, and have followed without hesitation since the day Israel was established.

Briefs

New Spanish Ambassador — Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — The new Spanish Ambassador D. Carlos Fernandez-Longoria y Paviaarrived in Cairo from Madrid tonight to assume his post. Amin Ghunaym, a counsellor in the Protocol Department of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, welcomed the ambassador at the airport. [Text] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 2007 GMT 24 Feb 85 NC*]

New French Ambassador Arrives — Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA) — The new French Ambassador, Pierre Hunt, arrived in Cairo from Paris tonight to succeed Ambassador Philippe Andre Felix Cuvillier, who has been appointed his country's ambassador in Rabat. The French ambassador was received at the airport by Counsellor Amin Ghunaym from the Protocol Department at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. [Excerpts] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 2106 GMT 24 Feb 85 NC*]

Foreign Ministry Reacts to UN Report on POW's

JN242010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1754 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) — It was announced here that Iraq will call on the UN Security Council to schedule a meeting during the first week of March to discuss the UN fact-finding team's report on the conditions of the prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq.

An official Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA that Iraq believes that the UN team's recommendations to alleviate the suffering of the prisoners of war and improve their conditions should be implemented and that Iraq is ready to do this sincerely and accurately, particularly with regard to the exchange of prisoners.

The spokesman added that in order to work out a practical mechanism for this, Iraq deemed it necessary to call for a UN Security Council meeting in order to adopt a resolution binding the two sides to implement the team's recommendations and drawing up a specific program to end the prisoners' suffering as soon as possible.

He emphasized that Iraq completely agrees with what was expressed in the UN secretary general's memorandum in which he presented the team's report. In this memorandum, he said that the prisoners' ordeal cannot be effectively ended except by ending the war. Moreover, Iraq welcomes the secretary general's readiness to help in any attempt to bring peace to the Iraqi and Iranian peoples.

The spokesman indicated that the Foreign Ministry had summoned the ambassadors of the UN Security Council's permanent member-states and asked them to seek their governments' approval of a Security Council meeting for this purpose.

He pointed out that the UN team's report has ignored the basic fact that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], which is the international organization in charge of following up POW affairs, has worked in Iraq without interruption, while the Iranian regime has long prevented the ICRC from performing its work in Iran; this is according to ICRC President Alexandre Hay's statement of 23 November 1984. He said that this basic difference between the Iraqi and Iranian stands has not been mentioned in the UN team's report;its importance has also not been indicated with regard to the sincerity of each side toward the POW's issue and with regard to the guarantees given to the Iranian POW's in Iraq at a time when the Iraqi POW's in Iran lack such guarantees.

The spokesman added that the ICRC work covered all the POW camps in Iraq, but did not cover all the POW camps in Iran, even during the few periods when the ICRC managed to perform some of its tasks in Iran. This affirms that a large number of Iraqi POW's have been deprived of ICRC care throughout their captivity. The same applies to the UN team, which visited all the POW camps in Iraq and was given the opportunity to visit and hold extensive contacts. However, this team was satisfied with visiting samples of the prisoners' camps in Iran, in accordance with the UN general secretariat's decision to pay equally long visits to the two countries.

He stressed that Iraq has, since the beginning, expressed reservation over this measure because it was impermissible to deal with this subject differently and the team should have visited the POW camps in Iran as it did in Iraq. It should have held extensive contacts in order to learn more facts as it did in Iraq.

He added: If this had taken place, the team would have discovered many of the facts that were emphasized by the ICRC statements, as well as other facts that the ICRC does not usually disclose in its statements. The fact that the ICRC has been closely watching the situation in the two countries for years should not be ignored.

Regarding the allegations on the so-called civilian prisoners of war, the spokesman said that about 75,000 Iranian citizens are living freely in Iraqi villages allocated to them and that Iraq considers these civilians as refugees. Nevertheless, Iraq agreed to include them in the fourth Geneva convention on protecting civilians at war time. Therefore, they are visited by the ICRC.

The spokesman indicated what Iraq had previously told the UN team regarding its full readiness to return all these civilians to Iran or to allow them to travel to any other country they choose in cooperation with the ICRC.

The spokesman pointed out that the UN team was formed in accordance with a request Iraq presented to the UN secretary general on 25 October 1984 in order to investigate the Iranian regime's crime in the Gorgan camp on 10 October 1984. The Iranian regime tried to obstruct the team's work by insisting that it should visit Iraq as well as Iran. When Iraq agreed , the Iranian regime insisted that the team should first visit Iraq. He stressed taht Iraq's initiative and stands toward the program of the team's visit have proven Iraq's sincerity and objectivity toward the issue.

Armed Forces General Command Issues Communiques

No 1,750

JN221714 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,750 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 22 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The victorious Iraqi forces continue their jihad against the forces of ignorance and evil in Iran for the sake of the homeland's dingity and the happiness and future of its sons. The following is a roundup of the activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Using artillery and other types of weapons, our forward units pounded enemy positions and weapons in the operational sector east of Basra, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. Our units also destroyed the infantry position, whose occupants were killed, and one enemy mortar, whose crew was hit.

2. One of our forward units dealt artillery blows to enemy positions and the sources of enemy fire in the central sector of the battlefield, scoring direct hits and destroying one machine-gun position and one mortar position, whose crew was killed.

3. In accordance with a well prepared plan, several of our forward units in the Maysan sector effectively shelled selected enemy targets, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on the enemy.

4. The rancorous enemy shelled Al-Shihabi with heavy artillery at noon today, demolishing two houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 February 1985

No 1,751

JN231653 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1618 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — During the past 24 hours, Iraqi fighter planes carried out 49 combat missions against enemy forces, positions, and equipment east of Basra and returned safely to base. A military communique issued here tonight said that Iraqi artillery units pounded Iranian concentrations and vehicles east of Basra, inflicting losses in men and equipment. Iraqi units destroyed five infantry postions, killed their occupants, and incapacitated the enemy's engineering equipment .

The communique said that two enemy men were killed elsewhere in the same sector. Three entrenched enemy guns in the Maysan sector were knocked out, and one infantry position in the central sector was destroyed and those manning it killed, the communique added. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No. 1,751 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Armed Forces continue to dominate all the operational sectors with rare courage and impeccable skill. The following is a summary of operations for last night and today:

1. Our glorious pilots continued their famous raids on remnant enemy forces, positions, and equipment east of Basra, inflicting the gravest losses in men and equipment. They returned safely to base after carrying out 49 combat missions, praise be to God.

2. With efficiency and capability, our artillery units pounded enemy concentrations, vehicles and engineering equipment east of Basra, scoring destructive hits and inflicting losses in men and equipment. They destroyed five infantry positions, killing those manning them, and incapacitated enemy engineering equipment . Two enemy men were also killed elsewhere in the same sector.

3. Our forces engaged and silenced three entrenched enemy guns in the Maysan sector.

4. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed in the central sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 February 1985.

No 1,752

JN241730 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Communique No 1,752 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 24 February 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continue to deal destructive blows to the enemy's defeated remnants, positions, and equipment in all operational sectors. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Our Air Force, Iraq's powerful arm, continues to chase the enemy's remnants, destroying their positions and equipment. The valiant sky hawks today carried out 141 combat missions in the central and east of Basra sectors, inflicting violent death on all the greedy aggressors who insist on pursuing the policy of aggression. The sky hawks returned safely and triumphantly, praise be to God.

2. Several formations from our forward units opened intensive and concentrated artillery and mortar fire on several enemy targets in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring effective hits, killing one enemy soldier, destroying one mortar and one vehicle, and burning one hardware stockpile. The vehicle was seen on fire.

3. One of our forward units ambushed five enemy boats in the Maysan sector. Our brave heroes fired on the boats and managed to destroy four of them and kill their occupants. They also hit the personnel of the fifth boat. All of the unit's personnel returned safely, praise be to God.

4. One enemy soldier was killed in the central sector of the operational theater.

5. Fresh groups of Iranian civilians sought refuge with one of our forward units in the northern sector of the operational theater. They were safely evacuated to the rear.

6. This morning, the criminal enemy shelled a residential area in the Basra environs with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 February 1985

SFRY's Dizdarevic, Delegation Visit Baghdad

Arrive in Baghdad

JN231343 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — Raif Dizdarevic, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq within his tour of the region. Dizdarevic will hold talks with Iraqi officials on ways of bolstering the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries for the joint interests of the two friendly people. Subjects of common concern and current international issues will also be discussed.

The guest delegation was received by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Talks Begin

JN231813 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1732 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — Official Iraqi-SFRY talks began in Baghdad today. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, led the Iraqi side; and Raif Dizdarevic, the SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs, led the SFRY side.

Talks dealt with the existing ties between Iraq and Yugoslavia, the Iraq-Iran war, the Arab situation, nonaligned issues, and international issues of common concern.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the Iraqi ambassador in Belgrade, and on the SFRY side by a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by 'Aziz

JN241116 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Raif Dizdarevic, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs, here today. The two sides resumed the talks the Iraqi and SFRY sides began yesterday on bilateral relations, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and nonaligned issues.

Received by Ramadan

JN242016 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1936 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) — This evening, Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Raif Dizdarevic, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs, and his delegation that is currently visiting Iraq. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations in all fields.

Received by President

JN251038 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — President Saddam Husayn received SFRY Federal Secretary Raif Dizdarevic, currently visiting Iraq, here today.

During the meeting, they discussed the close relations between the two friendly countries, the situation in the region, and the Nonaligned Movement's affairs.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the president's secretary, and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Confer With Hammadi

JN251250 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1152 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA) — National Assembly Speaker Sa'dun Hammadi met with visiting SFRY Federal Secretary Raif Dizdarevic here today. They reviewed several issues of common interest.

The SFRY federal secretary arrived in Iraq on a state visit the day before yesterday.

Journalist Union Delegation Leaves for Cairo

JN221129 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi journalists union delegation left Baghdad for Cairo today to participate in the nonaligned states journalists conference to be held on Monday. The delegation is made up of Taha Yasin Hasan, deputy doyen of Iraqi journalists and INA director; Hamid Sa'id, chairman of the board of directors and editor in chief of the newspaper *AL-THAWRAH*; and a number of union members.

Interior Ministry Denies Syrian Accusations

JN241839 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1806 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] We have just received the following: An official spokesman for the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

The Syrian news agency transmitted a statement this afternoon that it said was issued by the Syrian interior minister. In it, the minister accused Jordan of planning a shooting incident which he claimed was perpetrated by five armed men in a pickup truck that infiltrated the Syrian border in the Dar'a Province from the Jordanian border. He added that civilians were killed and wounded in the incident. The Syrian news agency's political editor's comment involved a frank threat against Jordan.

While dismayed at this hasty accusation, the Jordanian Interior Ministry categorically refutes the Syrian spokesman's statement and emphasizes that it has no knowledge of any shooting incident inside Syrian borders or on the Syrian-Jordanian border during the past few days. The Jordanian military units or security forces on the Jordanian-Syrian border have not recorded any such incident. The Interior Ministry also emphasizes that there is no information whatsoever about the occurrence of such an incident.

At 1807 today, the Kuwaiti news agency cited its Damascus correspondent as saying: The SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY, SANA, has canceled a statement issued by the Syrian interior minister on the infiltration of a car [as heard] carrying five armed men into the Dar'a Province in southern Syria from Jordanian territory and on an attack against a passing car during which two civilians were killed and a third wounded. The agency also canceled its political editor's commentary on the incident. The agency gave no reason for canceling the report. This was the text of the Kuwaiti news agency's item. The various other news agencies have confirmed this cancellation.

Hikmat Releases 'Text' of PLO-Jordanian Agreement

JN231256 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 23 Feb 85

[("Text" of Jordanian-Palestinian agreement read by Tahir Hikmat, minister of culture, tourism, and antiquities and acting information minister, at press conference in Amman on 23 February — recorded]

[Text] Proceeding from the spirit of the Fes summit resolutions approved by the Arabs and from UN resolutions on the Palestine question, in accordance with international legitimacy, and proceeding from a joint understanding toward building a distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the PLO have agreed to march together toward a just, peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue and toward the termination of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, in accordance with the following bases and principles:

1. Land in exchange for peace as cited in the UN resolutions, including the Security Council resolutions.

[Amman Television Service in English at 2000 GMT on 23 February, and Amman *JORDAN TIMES* in English on 24 February on page 1, in their otherwise identical versions of the Jordan-PLO agreement text, render this paragraph as follows: "1. Total withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 for comprehensive peace as established in United Nations and Security Council resolutions."]

2. The Palestinian people's right to self-determination. The Palestinians should exercise their inalienable right to self-determination when the Jordanians and Palestinians manage to achieve this within the framework of an Arab confederation [ittihad konfidirali 'arabi] that is intended to be established between the two states of Jordan and Palestine.

3. Solving the Palestinian refugees problem in accordance with the UN resolutions.

4. Solving all aspects of the Palestine question.

5. Based on this, peace negotiations should be held within the framework of an international conference to be attended by the five UN Security Council permanent member-states and all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, which is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, within a joint delegation — a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Date: 11 February 1985

Comments on Agreement

JN231941 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Amman — Tahir Hikmat, minister of culture, tourism, and antiquities and acting minister of information, met at the Ministry of Information at noon today with newsmen and reporters as well as Arab and foreign media correspondents. At the beginning of the meeting, the minister acquainted the reporters with the endorsed official text of the agreement for joint Arab action which Jordan and the PLO concluded on 11 February.

Hikmat also answered the reporters' questions about the clauses of the agreement, the Jordanian-Palestinian move in both the Arab and the international arenas, and reaction to the agreement. Asked about reaction in the occupied Arab territories, the minister said: There is apparent unanimity on the agreement, despite some individuals' objections to it. He added that these individuals used to take similar positions or have their own reasons. [sentence as heard] He also stressed that the reaction is very positive, pointing out that the Jordanian Government is receiving many petitions from all the political and national functionaries in the West Bank calling for support of the agreement as a step that will help to solve the crisis they are suffering.

Asked if the agreement depends only on Resolution 242, the minister said: Nobody can say that Resolution 242 is the only basis for solving the problem or the only basis for bringing about a just settlement. We can say that Resolution 242 is one of a group of principles aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive

settlement. A careful reading of the text of the agreement will prove this. Asked if the Israelis want to foil this distinguished agreement, the minister said: It is obvious that the Israelis have been surprised by the agreement, and their reactions have ranged from strong rejection to reserving judgment until they know the contents of the agreement. Some Israeli officials have described the agreement as a deceptive trick. Others have reserved judgement until they know the text of the agreement. He added: All Israeli statements on the agreement and on proposals for convening an international conference are no different from the previous Israeli positions. The minister also expressed the belief that the Israelis must make radical changes in their positions, thoughts, policies, and practices, so that they can face the settlement proposal.

Asked about the Soviet position on the agreement, the minister said: We carefully watch reactions. According to official Soviet sources, there is no clear objection to this agreement. TASS has published reports [thabtan] of some reactions. He added: We believe that the Soviet Union is very concerned about the PLO's unity, prestige, and credibility. Jordan has frequently — more than any other Arab country — called on the Soviet Union to play an effective role in any proposed solution. Regarding the reservations expressed by some Palestinian personalities on the agreement, the minister said: We are not concerned with any reservations here and there. What concerns us is that there is a decision by the legitimate legal body, the PLO Executive Committee. This body has approved this agreement after long discussions. Any reservations that some members of the committee have may take place outside this approval, for some reasons, and there may be some Palestinians who have several reasons. He added: Such reservations and interpretations do not concern us. What concerns us is a clear and frank point — namely, the issuance of a full and final approval of the agreement. We are concerned with the positive reactions from nearly all sides.

Asked about what we want the United States to do at this stage, the minister said: We want a lot. We want the United States not only to adopt a balanced policy in the Middle East, but also to help create all the objective circumstances in the region for achieving a just settlement. This fact makes it incumbent on the United States to reconsider a number of its positions and policies, including economic and military measures. He added: We also want the United States to understand this agreement as an important step and a valuable opportunity for bringing about a settlement that can assist in achieving real stability in the Middle East, which is threatened by continued stalemate and occupation. He added: This occupation will ultimately lead to large-scale confrontations between several powers, a fact that will harm U.S. and Soviet interests and stability in the countries of the region.

Asked if there is a limited time for this agreement, the minister said: This is a political move, and no political move can be limited by a certain time frame. What concerns us is that this agreement has broken the deadlock and raised hope for our kinfolk in the occupied land. He added that every effort should be exerted to achieve the agreement's goals.

Asked about convening the proposed Arab summit, the minister said: Jordan welcomes it. We believe that convening such a summit will contribute to the move's success, and that this move will continue. He added: This agreement epitomizes the foundations that the Arabs projected in their various conferences and in their efforts to reach a just settlement that will guarantee their rights. He also said that this agreement does not conflict with the need to build up the intrinsic Arab power, especially in the economic and military fields and in achieving Arab solidarity, a fact that will greatly help this move.

Al-Masri Briefs Envoys on Accord With PLO

JN241052 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Amman — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri yesterday morning received the Arab ambassadors accredited to Jordan in his office and acquainted them with the moves in the international arena within the framework of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement approved on 11 February. The minister reviewed the developments of the situation in the area with the Arab ambassadors.

Later, the foreign minister received the ambassadors of the EEC countries for the same purpose.

'Ubaydat Receives Journalists' President

JN241303 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received Mahmud al-Kayid, president of the Jordanian press association, in his office today and reviewed the press situation and journalists in general. The prime minister explained a number of points related to organizing the relationship between the press and information organs in order to bolster mutual confidence in light of the supremacy of the law, serving the citizen and the homeland, and achieving the public interest.

Interior Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia

JN241300 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Sulayman 'Arar, deputy prime minister and minister of interior, left Amman for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today on official visit that will last several days. 'Arar will hold talks with His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi minister of the interior, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries and coordination between the Jordanian and Saudi interior ministries.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for APU Meeting

JN250850 Ammam JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation has left for South Yemen to take part in an Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting due to open in Aden on Feb. 26. The delegation is led by Lower House Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz who said in a predeparture statement that the conference will discuss a number of issues mainly the Palestine problem, the Iran-Iraq war and the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon.

Also to be discussed, he said, are measures to safeguard shipping in the Red Sea and the ongoing war between Somalia and Ethiopia. The parliamentary delegations will exert efforts to improve relations among Arab countries and strengthen their solidarity, Mr. al-Fayiz said.

He added that the Jordanian delegation will hold talks with Arab parliamentarians attending the meeting to discuss Arab affairs and subjects to be discussed by the inter parliamentary union meeting, due to be held next month.

Apart from Mr. al-Fayiz the delegation includes Dr. Hazim Nusaybah, Mr. Marwan Humud, Mr. Khalid Fayyad and Mr. Zayd Zurayqat.

AL-RA'Y Rejects Peres' Request for Talks

JN230903 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Feb 85 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Peres Deceives Only Himself"]

[Text] The Israeli leadership is showing obvious concern at the interest with which the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement has been received in many capitals and at the active role played by Jordan to explain this agreement in those capitals. That concern appears not only in Israeli condemnation of the Jordanian-Palestinian formula, but also in the counterattack launched by Peres against the formula; this counterattack is represented by his call to Jordan to dispatch a delegation to the Israeli entity provided the delegation did not include any member of the PLO.

It seems the Israeli prime minister thought that his call and the strange details accompanying it would be a proposal that would attract international acceptance and interest as an alternative to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the proposed international conference, which enjoys large-scale support in the international arena and is rejected only by Israel and the United States.

Peres' proposal is an attempt to move the ball from the Israeli court into Jordan's. This proposal shows Israel's insistance on preventing activation of the Palestine cause and the peace process in the region. Peres knows full well that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement will not be affected by Israel's opposition and that it will not relinquish the arena that it chooses for solving the cause, the arena represented by the international conference. Peres also knows full well that Jordan has never agreed to hold unilateral talks for the sake of the cause, and it never will. Thus, it is obvious that the Israeli proposal is a waste of time and an intentional obstruction of the international community's will to find a real solution to the problem.

Frankly, Peres' call for Jordan to hold talks is linked to Shultz' statement a few days ago that the U.S. Administration insists that Camp David is still the cornerstone of its policy toward the Palestine cause. Therefore, we must affirm to Shultz and the Israeli aggressors that Camp David is outdated and that Jordan, which resisted Camp David when it was at the peak of its power, will not even allow talking about it now because its stand on it has not changed.

What the Israelis and their allies should understand is that nobody will be deceived by Peres' call to Jordan to negotiate. Nobody will consider it an alternative to the international conference. Jordan and the PLO will continue to strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion and serious work in all possible ways to activate the Palestine cause and achieve a just and honorable settlement that will preserve the Palestinian people's rights in their territory.

Al-Jumayyil on Syrian Relations, Israeli Withdrawal

GF231720 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 23, (GNA) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil described his country's relations with Syria as founded on strong basis of mutual confidence and respect.

President al-Jumayyil said in an interview published today by Kuwaiti *AL-SIYASAH* newspaper that there were indications that the second stage of Israel's troop withdrawal from the occupied south will be carried out soon, but cautioned that it will be more difficult and delicate than the first phase.

To ensure putting Lebanon on the right path, he underlined, we have to fullfill two conditions, minimum national accord, or at lease a factional truce, so that the Army can concentrate on its basic task of liberation.

Al-Jumayyil said that once national entente is realized, sectarian strife can be stopped and the Army despatched to deploy in the south.

The Lebanese president expressed readiness to sacrifice his life and position to extricate Lebanon from its current difficult situation.

Al-Husayni Briefs Al-Jumayyil on Damascus Talks

NC221028 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this morning. Al-Husayni briefed the president on the results of his visit to Damascus and on the talks he had with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

After the meeting, Speaker al-Husayni made the following statement:

[Begin recording] Naturally, I briefed the president on the results of my visit to Damscus and my talks with our Syrian brothers, now that the Israeli enemy is getting fiercer in the south. I view this as an inevitable result of the resistance forces' valiant strikes at the occupation army.

Despite the enemy onslaught against our kinsmen in the south, our people remain determined to liberate every inch of Lebanese soil, and to restore Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. I also believe it is our national duty to accelerate the implementation of the plans we've studied, and to not miss any available opportunity. We must not abuse Syria's support of Lebanon. We must use it for important and basic questions, not small issues that might bring an end to Syria's role in Lebanon.

The impression I gained from my meetings with our brothers in Damascus, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, assures me of the strength of their support in delivering Lebanon from its ordeal, restoring normal conditions here, reassuring its people, and creating stability.

On this occasion, I must express my great admiration for the people's steadfastness, particularly in the south. It is unprecedented in history. I sincerely hope that Lebanon proves to be the stronger link in the chain, and that it will continue to exist, God willing. [end recording]

Karami Calls on Arabs To 'Expedite Assistance'

LD231503 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 23 Feb 85

[By Imad Ajami]

[Text] Beirut, Feb 23 (KUNA) — The Lebanese national resistance has honored both the Lebanese and the Arab people, Lebanon's Premier Rashid Karami told KUNA in an exclusive interview Saturday.

Karami added that "what our people is doing and forbearing is in defense of Lebanon and the Arabs as a whole" and called on the Arab countries to expedite assistance to Beirut as stipulated in the Tunis Arab summit.

The prime minister pointed out that the present pressure on [the] national economy is the most serious aspect of the conspiracy against Lebanon and urged the Gulf countries in particular to extend urgent help to his country.

"This help can assume the forms of either crude oil to be refined in the Al-Zaharani and Tripoli refineries, soft loans, or financial donations that we accept from brothers who no doubt sense our critical conditions these days," he explained.

Karami expressed confidence that the Arab countries will never foresake Lebanon which is withstanding sacrifices that are above its capabilities.

Lebanon is facing difficult economic circumstances and at the same time is confronting an Israeli occupation of its south, western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya, he said.

Karami told KUNA that the Israeli occupation is coupled with daily barbaric, fascist, and inhuman practices against the Lebanese people, including killing innocent unarmed women, children, and the elderly along with burning farms and demolishing schools and houses.

Lebanon is not the only target of this invasion, but rather the whole region, he said and added "hence we consider our people's sacrifices as in defense of both Lebanon and the Arabs.

The Lebanese are proud of their national resistance which preserved their and the Arabs' dignity, he went on.

He asked the Arab countries to expedite the financial contribution to Lebanon endorsed by the Tunis Arab summit, amounting to two billion dollars, part of which goes to the occupied lands and to other to consolidate Lebanon's steadfastness.

Karami disclosed that only quarter, or even less of this amount, was received and demanded that the other Arab parties that committed themselves to contribute would do so soonest "particularly at this stage when we are liberating our territory."

The premier attributed the soaring dollar exchange rate vis-a-vis the Lebanese pound to the prevailing security, political, and economic circumstances in the country.

He reiterated the need of Arab aid to pass through this critical stage of the country's history and outlined that it is difficult to get over difficulties that are the result of ten years of struggle.

"Arab help would be the means of helping us to pass through this tunnel," he noted.

Karami regretted the late explosion attacks against diplomatic missions in Lebanon which led to their departure from the country and expressed his government's determination to provide the necessary security for these missions on deciding to return to Beirut.

Asked on the planned political reforms, demanded by Lebanese opposition, the premier said that approval of setting up ad hoc committees to deal with the Constitution, transitional laws, and nationality law underscores the Cabinet's commitment to undertake the required amendment which can best serve the country and its interests.

Karami indicated that the government will take appropriate action in the light of studies made by the said three committees, and announced that two committees were about to submit their recommendations while the third one, on constitutional changes, needed more time in view of the nature of its work.

Lebanon's top executive sounded optimistic regarding the second stage of Israeli troop withdrawal from the south, scheduled for next April, saying that it may be effected before the announced date. He expressed confidence that the southern population will demonstrate, as they did after the pullout from Sidon, national cohesion and vigilance.

Karami expressed hope that next week's Cabinet session will be complete by the presence of Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt who have been boycotting it for the last two weeks and several months respectively.

He also expressed belief that the Beirut-Tripoli highway will re-open during next week after removal of the Phalange-controlled checkpoint at Barbarah and spoke of a plan to be executed shortly by his government to control state revenue and put an end to wastage of public funds.

Karami concluded by pledging continuity of the salvage process and the government's strive to realize stability, security, and prosperity of the people.

Karami Views Israeli Actions, Arab Aid

NC231848 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 85

[News conference with Prime Minister Rashid Karami after his 23 February meeting with President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Karami] I discussed with his excellency the president current developments in general, regarding both the economic situation and what is taking place in the south. We also discussed the issue of political accord and the proposed reforms. As far as we are concerned, all these matters are open to discussion in accordance with a concept to be agreed upon on the grounds that the Legislative Decrees Committee is about to submit its official report to us. Not all matters related to this subject are viewed negatively; there is a certain positiveness on the grounds that the organization is open for agreement in an appropriate manner. As for the country's general economy and a mounting complaint about the high cost of living felt by all of us, we are pursuing the implementation of prior decisions. All these decisions are being followed up by the appropriate authorities.

There remains the question of Arab aid. We are still awaiting a response from Arab brothers, whether in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states in general, or the other states which committed themselves to the Tunis summit conference resolution. We must reaffirm at this point that Lebanon, which is struggling for its rights and defending its dignity, also is expressing in the name of all Arabs their cherished dignity, impregnability, and liberation. This undoubtedly is costing Lebanon dearly. We accept these sacrifices and expect our Arab brothers to support us in this march which concerns them as well as it does us. Therefore, Israel's barbaric and fascist actions against our people in the south are the subject of our complaint to the Security Council as well as other communications with all the friendly states. We will continue along this path. We will probably resort to calling on the Security Council to hold an official session to define measures that will ensure an end to these abnormal practices.

Therefore, we must address ourselves to the United States, whose ability to influence Israel is known by all of us. Its failure to move in an effective manner causes us to view it with questioning and blame since what is taking place in the south is an international responsibility. Everyone must act to put an end to what is taking place there. We are still waiting for this.

[Unidentified reporter] Have direct contacts been made with the United States in this regard?

[Karami] There is no doubt that contacts are continuing and we will take other steps to draw further attention to what is taking place. In this way everyone will feel with us and become aware of what is being committed against our people. Silence should not be maintained on such deeds.

[Unidentified reporter] Following the UN secretary general's meeting with the Lebanese delegate in New York, there was talk about the possibility of reactivating and resuming the Al-Naqurah talks. Is there anything new in this respect?

[Karami] We tried the Al-Naqurah talks and learned all of Israel's intentions through its proposals and demands. We met this with a clear Lebanese stand and just demands. When there is responsiveness and readiness to present a specific timetable for withdrawal, then we will discuss the question of meeting again in Al-Naqurah.

'Sources' View Karami Stand on Cabinet Meetings

NC241316 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Citing sources close to Prime Minister Rashid Karami, *AL-SAFIR* reports that he blames his opponents for not pursuing a logical policy. If certain people have valid demands concerning domestic policy, how do they expect them to be met if they don't attend Cabinet meetings? Since they agreed to participate in this national unity Cabinet from the beginning, any opposition should be expressed at the Cabinet's negotiating table, and not outside. When they don't do this, and if things don't go well, then they say that others have hampered them.

AL-SAFIR quotes an opposition leader as expressing fear that the president of the Republic may continue to make concessions on the regional level, which satisfies Syria, to avoid making any at home.

Fakhuri, UN Head Meet on Israeli Practices in South

NC221225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Lebanese diplomatic activity increased today following the Lebanese complaint to the UN Security Council about Israel's arbitrary practices against southern villages.

The Lebanese Foreign Ministry received a cable this morning from Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, the Lebanese permanent delegate to the United Nations, saying that he met last night with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar in the presence of UN Assistant Secretary General Brian Urquhart.

Fakhuri handed Perez de Cuellar the Lebanese note, reporting the Israeli practices in some southern Lebanese villages from 12 to 21 February. Ambassador Fakhuri asked the UN secretary general to initiate the necessary actions to stop such arbitrary operations while reserving Lebanon's right to call for a meeting of the UN Security Council should the Israeli forces continue their hostile acts in southern Lebanon.

The note was circulated among the representatives of the UN Security Council member-states. The talks also dealt with developments in the situation in southern Lebanon and the role which the United Nations can play to check the Israeli practices.

The talks between Perez de Cuellar and Ambassador Fakhuri dealt with the possibility of reinstating the Al-Naqurah talks.

Junblatt Says Cooperation With Karami 'Futile'

NC211903 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt said that attending the Cabinet sessions is out of the question. He maintained that any cooperation, even with Prime Minister Rashid Karami, is futile and ineffective.

He added: It is natural for political differences in a civilized country to be settled through dialogue and political action instead of through artillery shelling. Weapons do not solve problems. To settle these differences, the officials should be put on trial, even if the trial will involve everyone. [sentence as heard]

Junblatt rejected a return to the status enjoyed by the Palestinians in Lebanon prior to 1982. He also rejected any Palestinian presence in Al-Shuf. However, he said, I do not deny that the Palestinians have always fought on our side, and I owe them very much.

He maintained that he had to cooperate with the Israelis on the mountain. He said: We faced two enemies, the Israelis and the Phalangists. We decided to struggle against the Phalangists. He added: We take measures against those who cooperate with Israel and with the Deuxieme Bureau [a state security organ] and these measures call for their liquidation.

Regarding whether he receives Soviet weapons directly without going through Syria, he said: I receive weapons from my friend Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, and these weapons arrive via Syria. Al-Qadhdhafi is a fine man, but he is misunderstood in the Arab world. I have relations with Libya, and no one can prevent me from maintaining such relations. Junblatt was referring to the Amal movement's attitude toward Al-Qadhdhafi.

Junblatt promised to allow the Al-Shuf people to return to their areas regardless of what happens.

Junblatt's interview will be published tomorrow in *LA REVUE DU LIBAN* magazine.

Amal Declares 'General Mobilization' in South

NC231508 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] We have learned that the Amal movement issued the following plea in the south:

To our people in every part of the fighting south; may peace, as well as God's mercy and blessings, be upon you.

We have been dealing staggering blows to the Zionist enemy, and have forced his military and political leaders to stage a gradual withdrawal from our country. The enemy's leaders are now trying to save face, and to raise the morale of their soldiers, who have lost faith in their leaders' ability to face our heroism, a heroism that is in total contrast to the lying and fakery which appeared recently in the liberated zone.

Out of an eagerness to continue our resistance, our commitment to an objective and dedicated rejection of the occupation, and in response to the enemy's declaration that he will pursue a mailed-fist policy toward us, we announce the following:

1. A state of general mobilization is declared among our people in the occupied areas;
2. Private and public secondary schools will be closed until further notice;
3. All students are to join their designated centers according to plan;
4. No one is to travel on primary or secondary roads until clear information is obtained on the enemy's movements;
5. No young man may pass from the occupied area to the liberated zone. The resistance squads should see to this; and,
6. All our brothers and kinsmen in the liberated area should be on guard, set ambushes around their villages, and take up arms against the enemy forces if they enter any of their villages.

In conclusion, we pledge to our people and our dear country that we will meet Shamir's fist and Rabin's arrogance with strong blows. We no longer seek anyone's help, nor do we invoke the dead conscience of international or humane organizations. God is with us, and he will help us triumph soon.

Birri on Lahd Army, Phalangist Activities

NC231632 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, has declared a state of general mobilization among people in the occupied areas.

Birri appealed to those who have been misled by the Israeli enemy, particularly members of Lahd's army, and called upon them to withdraw from it during a period to last no more than 15 days.

In a press conference today, Birri pointed out that the raids performed by Phalangist forces from Sarba Barracks, particularly in 'Arab Salim and Humin al-Fawqa, in collaboration with agent Lahd's forces, are contrary to the pledge made before Sidon and Al-Zahrani were liberated.

Birri added: The warning addressed to agent Lahd's army also applies to these forces.

Birri added: We consider the Lebanese Army's failure to repulse the Israeli Army in Al-Zrariyah to be a mistake. We warn against any repetition of it as the Lebanese Army is responsible for the liberated villages.

He further stated: It is not necessary to keep weapons in the 8th Brigade depots and elsewhere so long as the south needs these weapons.

Birri also said: One drop of blood that flows for the sake of Lebanon's dignity will unify the Army more than any proposals made by Amin al-Jumayyil and others.

Birri Views Israeli Designs

NC231900 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1515 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Minister of state for south Lebanon today warned against the continued Israeli conspiracy against Lebanon, recalling that he had repeatedly questioned Israeli designs in staging a partial withdrawal in Sidon and the surrounding areas.

Speaking at a press conference, Minister Birri rejected Israeli attempts to give the Lebanese resistance in the south a sectarian color and he declared that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Sidon could be a prelude to the larger Israeli plot to try and expel Muslims from border areas and to provoke sectarian strife to force the people of Jazzin and other Christian areas to move into the border strip. He accused the Israelis of Nazi tactics and stressed that the new iron-fist policy of Israelis in the south was a flashback to Nazi tactics in Europe against the various minorities and the people of occupied areas.

Mr Birri described events in the towns of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, 'Arab Salim, Humin, al-Bazuriyah, Burj Rahhal, Tayr Dibbah, Kamid al-Lawz, Al-Zrariyah, Tibnin, and Bint Jubayl as an open war by the Israeli military machine against the civilians under the pretext of fighting terrorists. He said that this indicated the desire of Israel to launch an all-out war and he responded by declaring a general mobilization in occupied areas, the closure of public and private secondary schools in occupied areas until further notice, the avoiding of travel on highways, the avoiding of the departure of young men from the occupied areas, and the setting up of roadblocks to prevent the easy entry of Israeli forces.

At the same, Mr Birri warned for the last time all who were attached to the Lahd militia to desert and to pull out or otherwise to face the fate of collaborators. He was specially critical of collaboration between Lahd militia men and the Lebanese forces, which he described as a violation of agreements reached previously.

Mr Birri paid tribute to the south and especially to Sidon and welcomed the declarations and speeches delivered by government leaders. He stressed that the government could not back up the resistance without closing illegal ports, opening the Tripoli highway, and implementing plans for the State Security Directorate and political reforms.

He also stressed that transmission from the 'Amshit station of the Radio Lebanon was still halted, which made it impossible for the state media to function effectively in the past.

Mr Birri called for the equipping of the Lebanese Army units dispatched to the south and he referred to the way in which Sidon had managed to avoid sectarian conflicts despite the efforts of Israel and its agents to provoke such confrontations.

In response to questions, he indicated that Israeli troops had murdered the information officer of the Amal movement in Tibnin and had persecuted hundreds of families as part of its plan to change the population structure and composition in the border strip.

The minister of state said that he did not want to comment at this stage on world reaction to the events in the south and to the public statements of Israeli leaders that they would be adopting a get-tough policy against the people of the south without differentiating between men, women, and children.

He said that it was a great honor for the resistance to force the Israelis to become an open terrorist militia. He noted that Lebanon had responded to every peaceful effort in the past, but this had not met with the Israeli response.

Minister Birri called for the mounting of pressure and he was critical that Lebanon submitted a complaint to the Security Council but did not request a meeting. He said that he was always ready to attend the meeting of the Cabinet when the issue of reform was placed on the agenda. He noted that he had no interest in public office as such and that his efforts to even ensure the steady supply of electricity and water were being frustrated and thwarted deliberately and not because of security problems.

Phalangist Disputes Birri on Cooperation With Lahd

NC241458 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] An official source in the Lebanese Forces said that Minister Nabih Birri made a false statement at his news conference yesterday. His error came when he said that the troops in the Sarba Barracks, which once belonged to the Lebanese Forces, accompanied some of Lahd's units on raids, particularly in 'Arab Salim and Humin al-Fawqa. The Lebanese Forces are eager to state that his remark is totally groundless, as the Lebanese Forces have closed all their barracks in southern Lebanon. Those who remained there come from the area, and have no status in terms of the central organization.

The source expressed hope that Minister Birri will, out of concern for his credibility, be sure of his facts before leveling accusations.

Amal's Sa'd Plans To Increase Attacks on Israelis

NC241713 Paris AFP in English 1657 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Patrick Rahir Report]

[Text] Ma'rakah, Lebanon, Feb 24 (AFP) - Shi'ite Moslems fighting the Israeli presence in south Lebanon intend to step up a recent spate of attacks on Israeli troops, according to one of the men most hunted by the Israeli Army.

Muhammad Sa'd, 24, a leader of the Amal movement, a Shi'ite politico-military organization, also warned that his men were not deterred by the security sweep against Shi'ite villages in the south started by Israeli troops on Wednesday in a bid to cut back the attacks.

"Any escalation of repression will be met with an escalation in resistance," he said here. "For the first time Friday night we used mortars and rockets in 11 attacks (against the Israelis) and this is only the beginning."

Mr Sa'd's statements confirmed suspicions that the anti-Israeli actions that have tripled in recent weeks as the Israelis undertook their three-phase withdrawal from southern Lebanon were orchestrated by Shi'ite rebels.

He said the Amal movement was the only organization among the Palestinian and Lebanese groups that effectively reorganized after the Israeli invasion in June 1982.

Mr Sa'd also indicated that some of the recent attacks have been suicide, or what he called "martyr", operations, including the February 5 incident when a truck exploded into an Israeli military convoy at the Palestinian refugee camp at Burj al-Shimali near Tyre, wouding 10 Israeli soldiers.

Mr Sa'd gave the interview to four journalists in this southern village.

A Western diplomat in Beirut meanwhile said the departing Israelis have been the object of 105 attacks this month alone, which has left seven dead and 28 wounded. Other attacks have been launched on the Israeli-backed "army of south Lebanon" (ASL).

In reprisal, the Israeli Army has raided Shi'ite villages, imposed curfews, arrested suspected Shi'ite militants, and conducted house-to-house searches for arms. Yesterday alone, the Army said 10 people were killed and two injured as the Israelis continued their sweep through the area.

Mr Sa'd today charged that the Israelis, who completed the first phase of their three-stage withdrawal on February 17 by pulling back towards the Al-Litani River just north of Tyre, intend now to stay put and undertake a "de facto annexation" of the area south of the Al-Litani.

But Mr Sa'd warned that his group had already started organizing villagers in this area to oppose the Israelis like the residents of Ma'rakah did last February 24 when, he said, they united in a barrage of stones, bottles and sticks to keep Israeli soldiers out of their village.

Mr Sa'd also suggested that the current Israeli security drive was indiscriminate and that innocent people were being arrested in an attempt by the Israelis to incite opposition to the Amal movement.

But coming days will tell "if this policy succeeds" and "if Israel succeeds in maintaining" its presence south of the Al-Litani, he said.

Karamah Leads Phalange Party Delegation to Damascus

Security, Political 'Review' Planned

NC230543 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] A Phalange Party delegation will visit Damascus today to congratulate the Syrian president on his re-election. The delegation includes party leader Dr Elie Karamah, Minister Joseph

al-Hashim, Deputy Dr George Sa'adah, and party members George 'Umayrah, Joseph Abu Khalil, and Alfred Madi. The delegation will conduct an in-depth review of the Lebanese situation, with special emphasis on the security and political measures expected to be taken in the future.

Phalange Party Delegation Returns

NC241334 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The Phalange Party delegation led by Dr Elie Karamah returned to Beirut from Damascus this afternoon at the end of its talks with Syrian officials. On arrival in Beirut, Dr Karamah described the talks as constructive and positive.

Karamah on Damascus Talks

NC241912 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Phalange Party leader Dr Elie Karamah, who returned from Damascus today with his accompanying party delegation, said that the discussions with Syrian officials were very useful and that they were permeated by a positive and frank atmosphere. He added: I am almost certain that the results will be positive.

He further said: Preparations for the meeting were made several months ago. The discussions dealt with topics of interest to us all, particularly the situation in Lebanon which included security issues. We clarified the picture to a large extent. We also explained the Phalange Party's position in support of the legitimate authority and President al-Jumayyil, and its positive stand on all security plans in the past year. The Phalange Party has fully implemented these plans which concern the security of Beirut, closure of [illegal] ports, the coastal plan, removal of barriers, restoring state funds, and particularly the recent decision that the state should assume responsibility for maintaining security in East Beirut.

Dr Karamah also said: It was necessary to clarify a picture which was not very clear. We spoke about the future of Lebanon, constitutional issues, and the committees' work. We stressed the Phalangist's desire to coexist peacefully and to achieve a real accord.

The Phalangist leader then said: We are convinced that no longer can any group impose a military solution on another group. We hope that all Lebanese groups feel the same.

He added: Shells fall at certain times and under certain circumstances, particularly during the delivery of speeches and the expression of positions. We ask whether the other sides have become fully convinced that they cannot impose their will on other Lebanese.

He said: We must reach an understanding. Syria can play an important role in this regard.

Regarding discussions on restoring the legitimate Lebanese authority's sovereignty and powers throughout Lebanon, and particularly in the south, Dr Karamah said: We emphasized our support for the conciliatory attitude of the legitimate authority. We requested Syria to support the salvation march in Lebanon. We felt there was a good response by the Syrian officials. We hope and expect that the discussions will produce positive results vis-a-vis solutions to some aspects of the Lebanese question.

2,500 Palestinians Reportedly Return to Sidon

NC230700 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Correspondents in the south have reported that some 2,500 Palestinians recently returned to Sidon after the Israeli withdrawal. The correspondents noted that a pro-'Arafat official and one belonging to the dissident group also returned to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The correspondents added that PLO officials have visited the camp in the past 3 days, creating an atmosphere of tension among residents there. The inhabitants fear that inter-Palestinian fighting might resume in the area.

In another development, the Lebanese Army has blocked minor roads between Sidon and Jazzin, and has diverted traffic to the highway between these two places.

Jordan Accused of Killing Two 'Civilians'

JN241530 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[The following item was "canceled" by SANA at 1854 GMT 24 Feb]

[Text] Damascus, 24 Feb (SANA) — Interior Minister Nasir al-Din Nasir issued the following statement here today:

On 23 February 1985 a pickup truck carrying five armed men infiltrated the Dar'a Province from Jordanian territory. The armed men fired at a passing car in the area, killing two civilians and wounding another.

They then took the car to the border region with Jordan where they burned it before crossing the border back to Jordan early on the morning of 24 February 1985.

Commenting on this criminal act, the SANA political editor said: The Arab people in Syria and in the Arab world in general are well aware of the reasons that prompt the Jordanian authorities to commit such irresponsible criminal acts which are far removed from genuine Arab ethics.

The political editor added: Our Arab people are fully convinced that such acts will not distract their attention from following up the chapters of the vile capitulatory plot being concocted by the Amman rulers. These people will continue to lie in wait for this plot, and the Arab brothers throughout the Arab world know that the Syrian people are able to deter any treachery from any side whatsoever.

And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

Jordan Accounting Requested

JN242046 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — The interior minister has issued the following statement:

On 23 February 1985, a pickup truck carrying five armed men infiltrated Dar'a Province from Jordanian territory. The armed men fired at a passing car in the area, killing two civilians and wounding another.

They then took the car to the border region where they burned it before crossing the border back into Jordan early on the morning of 24 February 1985.

This evening, the director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry summoned the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus and informed him of the details of the incident and Syria's strong denunciation of it.

He asked the Jordanian charge to account for the incident and to punish those responsible for it, and the charge d'affaires promised to communicate this to his government immediately.

Reportage on Visit of Lebanese Phalangist Delegation

Al-Asad Meets With Phalangists

JN231711 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Damascus — At 1230 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received a Lebanese Phalange Party delegation led by Dr Elie Karamah, leader of the party, and members of the party Political Bureau, including deputy party leader Dr George Sa'adah, Joseph al-Hashim, George 'Umayrah, Alfred Madi, and Joseph Abu Khalil. The delegation congratulated the president on his election to a third constitutional term as president of the Syrian Arab Republic. The president gratefully accepted the congratulations.

The talks revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena and the latest developments — including the liberation of Sidon and its territory from the Israeli occupation — in light of the national tasks facing the Lebanese people, the foremost of which are liberating all Lebanese soil from Israeli occupation, continuing the march of national accord, and security.

The president expressed Syria's principled decision to stand by the fraternal Lebanese people in their struggle to achieve their national goals and to consecrate the unity of the land and people.

The president asserted that Syria will not hesitate to provide every possible support for fraternal Lebanon in its resistance of the Israeli occupation and in its genuine endeavors to achieve national accord, spread security throughout its territories and restore normal life in all areas, so that Lebanon will be returned to all of its sons and will be able to play its Arab role.

The delegation members praised the efforts Syria is exerting to help Lebanon overcome the difficulties and obstacles blocking its march on the path of liberation and toward national and security accord. They appreciated the president's personal efforts to help the Lebanese people in difficult circumstances. They said that they place high importance on the Syrian Arab role and that of the president in helping Lebanon in the furture, and that they look forward to further bolstering relations between the two fraternal countries.

Phalangists View Delegation's Visit

NC231956 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The Phalange Party delegation's visit to Syria, the first in several years, has gone beyond congratulating President al-Asad on his reelection to a third term in office. It has included talks covering current political and security issues and centering on Syria's role in helping Lebanon achieve detente and unity.

Our correspondent accompanying the delegation says that the approximately 3-hour meeting between President al-Asad and the Phalangist delegation dealt with plans to strengthen the Army and with security plans for greater Beirut, the northern and southern coasts, and the Beirut-Damascus road.

The Phalangist delegation felt that the Syrian president was determined to support Lebanon's march and its legitimate authority, to speed up steps for political detente, and to impose order, especially in Beirut, Sidon, and Tripoli. This would enable Lebanon to cope with developments in the south, western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya resulting from the second and third stages of the Israeli withdrawal.

Our correspondent reports that the Phalangist delegation and President al-Asad discussed the situation in Sidon, its environs, and other parts of southern Lebanon. President al-Asad expressed satisfaction with the visit which President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami paid to Sidon. He voiced the hope that thanks to the unity of its sons and their vigilance, southern Lebanon will transcend this stage and avert any complications that might arise as a result of the withdrawals.

Khaddam Meets With Delegation

JN241903 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Following their 3-hour meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, Dr Elie Karamah and the members of the Phalange Party Political Bureau held another 3-hour meeting with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who announced after the meeting that they discussed the overall situation in Lebanon and ways to overcome the current crisis. Khaddam also stressed that relations between Syria and Lebanon should be through the Lebanese Government and not through the various parties. Khaddam also expressed his belief that such contacts will solve problems, especially since everyone displays a readiness to cooperate to resolve all problems. Asked about his forthcoming visit to Beirut, Khaddam said: There are contacts, and in light of these contacts a date for the visit will be set.

Dr Elie Karamah has also made a statement to our radio in which he said that the Phalange delegation's meetings in Damascus have been useful, satisfactory, frank, and cordial. Dr Karamah, who highly praised President al-Asad's personality and insight, stressed that his visit to congratulate the president has given him a chance to hold a working meeting, discussions, and dialogue that have been prepared for several months, and that this visit falls within the framework of resuming the relations established by the late Pierre al-Jumayyil several years ago. Dr Karamah also added that all aspects of the Lebanese situation have been discussed within the framework of the Lebanese legitimacy that the Phalange Party supports. He added: We explained to the Syrian leadership our position and discussed possible future reforms. We also stressed that no party in Lebanon can dominate the situation or impose its opinion by force of arms.

He also added: We have urged Syria to accelerate its steps to implement security plans; there is an obvious Syrian desire to achieve security and stability on all Lebanese territories.

Ending his statement, Karamah said: There has been an agreement of opinion between us to a great extent, and we hope that good relations will continue and develop in the future.

This positive atmosphere has also been confirmed to our radio by Minister Joseph al-Hashim, who has said that the Phalange-Syrian dialogue will continue. Al-Hashim expressed his satisfaction with the atmosphere of the talks and with the continuation of relations between the two sides.

Al-Ahmar Receives Delegation

JN241222 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received the Lebanese Phalange Party delegation headed by the party leader Dr Elie Karamah, this morning. The talks revolved around the situation in Lebanon, the relations between the Syrian and Lebanese peoples, and the role of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its revolution in Syria in assisting the Lebanese people to liberate their territory from Zionist occupation and achieve national accord among all the Lebanese citizens. They affirmed the need to continue the dialogue between the various Lebanese sides to implement the political and social program of the national unity government. They also stressed the need to continue joint action to remove the obstacles that hamper the accord march and to mobilize all capabilities in supporting the nationalist resistance to liberate all the occupied Lebanese territory from Zionist occupation.

The comrade assistant secretary general praised the positive role of the Lebanese nationalist resistance in Lebanon and its direct impact on the enemy that forced it to withdraw from Sidon and its environs. Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed Syria's course under comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party and president of the Republic — a course that supports the Lebanese people and helps the various parties to make the national accord march succeed. He said that the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Syria will continue to exert all effo to help Lebanon.

Dr Karamah, leader of the Lebanese Phalange Party, expressed his party's appreciation for Syria's stand under President Hafiz al-Asad and its gratitude for Syria's assistance and constant support for Lebanon. He affirmed that Syria is the one qualified to help Lebanon overcome its difficulties. Karamah and the delegation accompanying him expressed satisfaction with the brotherly relations between the two countries. They said that they felt that Syria embodies the value and meaning of Arabism. He wished the Syrian people further progress and prosperity and expressed his party's desire to continue the contacts and meetings with the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party to serve the two countries and all Arab issues.

Al-Asad, Others Receive Sidon Delegation

JN242030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpts] The heroic city of Sidon today offered its congratulations, thanks, appreciation, and pride to President Hafiz al-Asad. This came when his excellency received the heroic city's delegation at 1230 today.

The delegation consisted of Nazih al-Bizri, deputy for Sidon; Shaykh Muhammad Salim Jalal al-Din, the Sidon mufti; scholar Muhammad Hasan al-Amin; Dr Nabil al-Ra'i, representative of the Nasirite popular grouping movement; Hafiz 'Abd al-Jawad, leader of the workers' trade unions in Sidon; Muhammad al-Za'tari, head of the trade and industry delegation in Sidon; Ahmad Kalash, mayor of Sidon; 'Ali al-Sharif, head of the Sidon merchants' society; Eng Muhammad al-Muhammadiyah, official in charge of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party organization in Sidon and the South; and Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-Bizri.

Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm also received the delegation of the heroic city of Sidon this afternoon. The talks revolved around the situation in the Lebanese arena and the victory that was scored by the withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces from Sidon and its environs. Emphasis was placed on the importance of continuing the resistance against the Israeli occupation and liberating all the Israeli-occupied Lebanese territories.

Khaddam and Dr al-Kasm hailed the heroism of Sidon and the south as well as the national resistance of the Lebanese people against the Israeli occupation. They confirmed that Syria's principled decision that President Hafiz al-Asad announced is to stand by the Lebanese people in their struggle for liberating all their soil from the Israeli invaders and to continue the march along the path of security and national accord.

Further on Reception

JN250810 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad has hailed the people of Sidon and the south and praised their maturity, sacrifices, and national unity, affirming that they have set an example for Lebanon and all the Arabs. Receiving the heroic Sidon delegation yesterday, his excellency said that Syria stands beside Lebanon in its struggle for liberation, national accord, and security. When it offers support to the strugglers against the Israeli aggression, it is not seeking gratitude but only fulfilling its duty toward a fraternal twin country. We are one people and belong to one nation; we have a common destiny, common interests, and a common enemy.

The president affirmed to the heroic Sidon delegation that Syria's principled and constant position is to stand beside Lebanon with all its abilities in Lebanon's struggle to liberate its national soil from the Zionist invaders and protect its territory and the people's unity.

Leader Al-Asad asserted that Syria will always remain a shelter for pan-Arabism, a bastion for Arab national liberation, and a supporter of any Arab struggler who confronts imperialism and Zionism.

President al-Asad expressed his pride in and gratitude for the people of Sidon and the south in general. He expressed his great appreciation for their sacrifices and the heroic deeds they have shown in resisting and defeating the Israeli enemy. He affirmed that what happened and still is happening in the south represents a historic development which we, as well as others, will speak about with appreciation, pride, respect, and glorification.

The heroic Sidon delegation conveyed to President al-Asad the congratulations, gratitude, and appreciation of the city.

Reportage on Visit of Spanish Senate Delegation

Talks With Delegation Begin

JN241243 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] A session of talks was held between the People's Assembly delegation led by Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi and the Spanish Senate delegation led by Senate President Jose Carvajal at 1000 today. The Spanish ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks dealt with parliamentary relations between the two countries, the situation in the Middle East, and the international situation.

Mahmud al-Zu'bi explained during the session Syria's stand on current events in the region. He explained Israel's aggressive, expansionist policy and constant U.S. support for it. He affirmed that there is a U.S.-Israeli design aimed at Israel's expansion at the expense of Arab territory and at imposing U.S. hegemony over the Arab region. The People's Assembly speaker affirmed that the Husayn-'Arafat draft plan will only face the same fate as that of the 17 May agreement. He said that the plan casts doubt on Arab rights. He said that Israel cannot offer peace or land.

Al-Zu'bi spoke about the importance of relations between the two countries, particularly on the parliamentary level. He also spoke about the importance of exchanging visits and expertise and the role of parliamentarians in strengthening and deepening the relations between the two countries and peoples. He explained the nature of the People's Assembly operation and its role in popular supervision and in the field of legislation. The People's Assembly speaker also presented a detailed explanation of Syria's achievements under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Spanish Senate President Jose Carvajal emphasized Syria's prominent role in the region. He described Syria as one the most important countries in the world. He affirmed that Spain will continue to support Arab rights under all circumstances.

Al-Shar' Receives Spanish Delegation

JN241252 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received the Spanish Senate delegation led by Senate President Jose Carvajal at 1200 today. The meeting was attended by Sulayman Haddad, director of the West Europe desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the Spanish ambassador in Damascus. The talks revolved around current developments in the region, bilateral relations, and ways of developing these relations.

Al-Kasm Confers With Delegation

JN242026 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Spanish Senate President Jose Carvajal and members of the accompanying Spanish delegation at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by the Spanish ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the old historical and cultural relations that link the Syrian and Spanish peoples and the joint interests that call for bolstering cooperation in all fields and reinforcing all steps that would expand the areas of this cooperation for the welfare of the two peoples.

The prime minister explained to the members of the Spanish Senate delegation the broad lines of the current crisis in this region that resulted from the aggressive policy of Israel and its allies.

On the other hand, the Spanish Senate president expressed his thanks for the hospitality and welcome he and his delegation were accorded in Syria. He affirmed his appreciation for the strong and distinguished role Syria is playing — a role that attracts the attention of world public opinion. He also stressed the need for developing Syrian-Spanish relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries and peoples whose close ties have not been cut throughout history.

The talks also dealt with a number of issues related to the region and the world and affairs of mutual concern.

GDR's Heinrich, Delegation Arrive For Talks

JN241440 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Eberhard Heinrich, chairman of the GDR Association of Journalists, arrived in Damascus today at the head of a delegation on a several day visit to the country.

The delegation will hold talks with the Syrian Journalists' Union aimed at signing a new agreement for cooperation and exchange of expertise.

The delegation will visit a number of provinces to review the comprehenisve development Syria has achieved in all domains.

Anniversary of Unity With Egypt Celebrated

JN231831 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The Damascus city branch command of the Ba'th Party staged a mass celebration this evening on the anniversary of the Syrian-Egyptian unity at the 7 April Hall.

Terrorist Squad Seeks to Assassinate Peres

TA250820 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 Feb 85 p 14

[AFP report]

[Text] Amman — The Jewish terrorist organization, "Terror Against Terror" [TNT], announced the establishment of a special squad code-named "Eytan Avrahami" to assassinate Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who it describes as a "traitor."

In a letter sent to the AFP office in Amman, which carried an Austrian postmark, TNT notes that Eytan Avrahami was a young member of the organization who died "because of Shim'on Peres' obstinacy in holding the humiliating Al-Naqurah talks" on the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

TNT added that it decided to take revenge for the death of its "hero" by killing Shim'on Peres, "the traitor who conceived the idea of peace in exchange for land."

Peres Prevents Cabinet Debate on Early Withdrawal

TA241537 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister said today in the weekly Cabinet session that Israel had tried to reach an agreement with the Lebanese Government, but that since no such agreement was reached, Israel cannot be expected to accept attacks on its men and assume that such attacks will go unanswered. Sitting as a Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs, the Cabinet today heard a report by the heads of the defense establishment on last week's events in Lebanon.

Our political correspondent reports that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres prevented a debate on accelerating the withdrawal from Lebanon. He told the ministers that a detailed debate on the various stages of the withdrawal from Lebanon will be held during next Sunday's Cabinet session.

Cabinet Approves Overspending Bill

TA250955 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Report by Michael Eilan and Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] The Cabinet yesterday approved a curtailed Budget Principles Bill, which imposes penalties on civil servants who overspend their ministries' budgets but permits their ministers to veto these penalties.

After a 3 and 1/2-hour vociferous debate, during which one crucial word was changed, the bill squeaked through by a vote of 11-9.

The bill originally gave the finance minister broad powers to check overspending in ministerial budgets. Most of the powers accorded to the finance minister would have taken effect "after consultations" between the finance minister and the ministers whose budget was overdrawn. The bill was amended to provide that these powers, including the penalties on civil servants, would take effect only "with the agreement" of the minister whose budget was overdrawn. The suggested change came from Prime Minister Peres.

Peres, Rabin Urge Adherence to Withdrawal Plans

TA241947 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] No substantial change in the timetable set for the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon should be expected, our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports. The prime minister and the defense minister believe that it is necessary to adhere to the plan to carry out the second and third stages of the withdrawal at the set times. Meanwhile, we will continue to act firmly against Shi'ite terrorism.

On Thursday the inner Cabinet will discuss the issue, and the entire Cabinet will debate the matter in its next session [on Sunday 3 March].

At today's session, the defense minister and the chief of staff reviewed the IDF operations in the Shi'ite villages, and the prime minister said that Israel will not accept attacks on its soldiers.

Peres on Visits to Italy, Romania

TA242034 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tel Aviv, 24 Feb (ITIM) — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that at present, the Vatican is adopting a new line regarding its position on Jerusalem, the basis of which is a request for international guarantees for the holy places.

Mr Peres, who related his impressions from his visit to the Vatican during a ceremony marking the graduation of the first class of journalism at Tel Aviv University, noted that in his talks in the Vatican — where he met with the pope and his prime minister [as received] — the question arose as to why the Vatican supports the internationalization of Jerusalem. The explanation was that this position was adopted in 1947, before Israel's war of independence, in a bid to prevent bloodshed through war. The Vatican has not since revoked this resolution, but neither has it reconfirmed it. At the same time, a more subtle nuance can be discerned in its position, which is a demand for international guarantees for the holy sites.

In a meeting, Mr Peres raised the question: "Is the idea to have the Soviets in Warsaw and in Jerusalem? Maybe it's enough to have the Soviets in Moscow? Why internationalization? To bring the Russians to Jerusalem?" He added that he will not quote the response he got to that question.

In his audience with the pope, he also broached the issue of relations between the Jewish and Christian faiths. Mr Peres said that the fabric of biases, instigation, and anti-Semitism should be uprooted from the fabric of relations. "When the Christian faith was first established, there were about 40 million Christians and 4 million Jews in the world; whereas now there are between

600 and 700 million Christians, and only 14 million Jews, and Europe is full of Jewish graves," Mr Peres said.

To this the pope replied: "We are all sons of Abraham, and the Jewish people — the chosen people — were forced to pay a heavy price for its adherence to its values." Nonetheless, he pointed out that since the ecumenical conference, a marked improvement could be seen in the relations "and it is in the interest of all of us to see them further improved."

The third topic was the PLO and the peace negotiations, and here Mr Peres explained that there is a difference between the PLO's propaganda and its position. "We did not agree on all the subjects, but we were received sympathetically," Mr Peres said. In this context, he noted that the audience lasted 50 minutes, rather than 40, although the secretary of state entered from time to time to remind the participants that their time was up.

"The battle over Europe, which appeared to us to be lost, is by no means indeed lost," Mr Peres said, summing up his political meetings in Italy. Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi came out against an international conference on the peace negotiations. He promised to support Israel's three demands regarding the EEC "and did not go out of his way on the PLO." Regarding the PLO, Mr Peres explained to his interlocutors: "The difference is that you hear the PLO, whereas we see it." The Italian president, too, expressed great support for Israel, which came as a pleasant surprise, contrary to the earlier impression.

In Italy, just as in his last visit to France, Mr Peres felt immense public support for Israel, although it is inconspicuous and cherished in the bottom of the heart. This was manifest, among other things, in the large reception held by Israel's ambassador to Italy, attended by 1,200 people, including government officials, members of the military, the press, the media, and literary figures. Among them was the secretary general of the Communist Party and his two deputies, as well as Jewish writer A Moravia. "In 4 days we held contacts with four authorities — a democratic country, the Catholic Church, a Communist regime, and the Jewish world. The changeover from one regime to another is harder than the change from a warm to a cold climate," the prime minister said.

Relating his meeting with the Romanian president, Mr Peres noted that Ceausescu supported an international conference on peace negotiations, with the participation of the PLO, but Mr Peres replied that the Soviet Union had severed it ties with Israel, the PRC has never established such ties, Syria demands the annihilation of Israel, and the PLO continues to shoot at women and children. Only if the Soviet Union renews its ties with Israel and the PRC established such ties "above board," and their positions are more or less balanced, will Israel be prepared to reconsider the convening of an international conference.

In this context, Peres praised the Romanian president for his assistance in the immigration of Romanian Jews, for the freedom of culture and religious practice granted to the Jewish community in Romania, and for his role in improving Israeli-Egyptian ties. He also noted that Israel has vast ties with Romania, particularly in the economic sphere.

Later Peres reported on his meetings with the Italian and Romanian Jewish communities, and noted that he had laid wreaths in many Jewish cemeteries, where he was caught in a pensive mood meditating on the fate of tombstones that have no one to maintain them. Among others, he laid a wreath on the memorial for the *Struma*, a Jewish pilgrim boat [illegible] during World War II by Soviet submarines.

Shamir To Visit France, FRG, Netherlands

TA240542 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir leaves this morning on a visit to three European capitals — Paris, Bonn, and The Hague. Tomorrow he will confer with French President Mitterrand and with France's external relations minister. Afterward, he will meet with West German Chancellor Kohl and the Netherlands' Prime Minister Lubbers. Most of Shamir's efforts will be directed at preventing Israel's agricultural exports from being endangered as a result of Spain and Portugal joining the EEC.

Airport News Conference

TA240650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0530 GMT 24 Feb 85

[News conference by Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport prior to his departure for Europe for talks with EEC leaders — live]

[Text] [Picked up in mid-sentence]...of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the Soviet Union, the PLO, the Arab countries, and so forth. We do not regard this agreement [between Jordan and the PLO] as any opening whatsoever for peace in the region. We think that there is no shortage of peace plans, but that what is lacking is goodwill and readiness on the part of the Arab countries to make peace. Israel insists on its adherence to the Camp David accords and on its readiness to conduct negotiations with Jordan without any preconditions. I think this is an excellent and appropriate basis for promoting the chances for peace in the Middle East.

[Voice of Israel correspondent Amnon Nadav] Still, Sir, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Knesset Member Abba Eban, today spoke about some kind of narrow opening for negotiations with Jordan.

[Shamir] If I am not mistaken, it was King Husayn who spoke about a narrow opening. Indeed, if the opening is considered narrow by one of the main partners to the agreement, I think it would be very difficult for us to see any opening in that agreement.

[Nadav] [Sir, do you agree with the recent moves made in Lebanon which the defense minister will report on to the Cabinet in today's session?

[Shamir] I think these moves are necessary in light of the current situation. The IDF is carrying out the Cabinet resolution on a

withdrawal from Lebanon and it must protect the lives of its soldiers with all the means at its disposal.

[Nadav] Sir, during your absence the Cabinet may discuss the issue of the withdrawal from Lebanon. Are you not apprehensive that a decision may be made to accelerate the withdrawal from Lebanon?

[Shamir] I do not know what decision will be made, but I trust the Cabinet members to make the right decisions.

[Nadav] During your European tour, you will also visit Bonn. Today and yesterday we heard reports about the possible sale of German weapons to the Arab countries. Will you raise this issue during your visit to Bonn?

[Shamir] This issue will certainly be raised. This is an issue we usually raise in all the meetings with the Bonn leaders on this level. Israel's position is known -- we are firmly opposed to funneling modern sophisticated German weapons to the Arab countries in the region. We discussed the matter with Chancellor Kohl a year ago and we will raise it again this time.

[Nadav] To conclude this live transmission, you are departing for Europe today in your capacity as foreign minister. The prime minister and Minister 'Ezer Weizman returned over the weekend from similar visits. Minister Shahal departs on what has been termed a political mission to Egypt this week. Do you think that this subject is being handled by too many Cabinet ministers?

[Shamir] It does not matter who makes the trips to Europe and Egypt. What counts is the purpose and the results. It seems to me that all the visits and visitors are aimed at one goal, that is, promoting Israel's interests and peace in the region.

Rabin Sees No Need To Revise Withdrawal Plans

TA221150 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The defense minister said today that the IDF is doing everything possible not to prolong its stay in Lebanon more than necessary. Nevertheless, Rabin believes there is no need to take hasty measures and certainly not to revise the government's decision on the IDF withdrawal from Lebanon. Mr Rabin was speaking with the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Abba Eban, on the proposal made by Knesset Members Victor Shemtov and Yosi Sarid to complete the IDF withdrawal by May of this year.

Arens Criticizes Lebanese Leaders, Terrorism

TA251010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Text] Minister Moshe Arens has attacked the Lebanese leaders —President Amin al-Jumayyil, Prime Minister Rashid Karami, and Shi'ite leader Nabih Birri. He said they are either addicted to terrorism or do not have the courage to fight it. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Arens was speaking at the international conference on terrorism and criminal identification in Jerusalem.

Lubrani Foresees Continuing Terrorism After Pullout

TA221154 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 85 p 14

[Report on interview with Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Yosef Walter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The Shi'ite demonstration in Sidon is an indication of the development of the internal struggle in that sect, which has directly influenced the events of the last few weeks in southern Lebanon. This struggle fuels the fire of the attacks against the IDF.

The coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, regards the factionalism and the internal struggle within the sect as the main cause for the creation and steady rise of Shi'ite terrorism against the IDF: On the one hand there are the extremist Shi'ite organizations whose headquarters is in Ba'labakk in Al-Biqa' and who derive their inspiration and finances from Tehran, via Damascus. On the other hand, there is the leadership of the so-called mainstream in the Amal movement, represented — for the moment — by Nabih Birri. Birri's rule is being threatened by outside extremists and his fellow leaders inside Amal.

"During the Shi'ite riots in Sidon, except for one car decorated with Birri's portrait, his name was never mentioned, even though he is the minister in charge of the affairs of the south and is supposed to be the official spokesman for the population there. On the other hand, the pro-Khomeyni extremists dominated the activity, and this expressed the challenge they present to the Amal movement establishment, and the Lebanese establishment as a whole," Lubrani says.

The event in Sidon, in Lubrani's opinion, constitutes a manifesto that for the first time urges the establishment of an Islamic-Shi'ite republic in Lebanon. Therefore, Iran most certainly was the body behind this mass demonstration.

According to Lubrani, the battle for the soul of the Shi'ite public in Lebanon is now being waged, and that public could elect the sect's leaders. The extremists and the moderates are now competing for the heart of the Shi'ites from the south. The recent attacks against the IDF in southern Lebanon are an outcome of this competition, as each stream wants to prove its worthiness.

Walter: Do you think the IDF's withdrawal to the new line, which meanders through Shi'ite villages, has exacerbated the Shi'ite terrorism?

Lubrani: If I knew for certain that the IDF's presence in the midst of the Shi'ites increased terrorism, or that alternatively its withdrawal would calm this phenomenon, it would be easy for me to answer this question. Shi'ite terrorism, at least in general, is not only an outcome of the very presence of the IDF in Lebanon, but has to do with a number of reasons; I believe Shi'ite terrorism will haunt us even after the IDF is redeployed beyond the Purple Line.

This terrorism derives its major motivation from religious-Islamic-Messianic-Shi'ite values, and its ultimate target is Jeru-

salem, not the northern settlements. Shi'ite terrorism will also serve as subcontractor for Palestinian terrorism, because in the absence of an infrastructure in the south, with the help of which they could fight aganist Israel, the Palestinian terrorist organizations will take advantage of the serious economic situation and increasing unemployment in the villages of southern Lebanon and will hire Shi'ite mercenaries to operate against us in return for Palestinian money.

Hence, Palestinian terrorism will also follow us. The PLO is torn by a battle between 'Arafat's supporters and his opponents, and this works as a catalyst to boost anti-Israeli terrorism, as in the case of the Shi'ite sect.

Walter: The picture you are drawing is pretty gloomy.

Lubrani: That is my feeling. We will be better off if we expect the worst and are pleasantly surprised than if we indulge in excessive optimism and have reality slap us in the face.

Walter: What do you think should be done to foster — even slightly — relations with the members of the Shi'ite sect in the south in terms of a long-term investment when the IDF withdraws to the international border?

Lubrani: There are quite a few Shi'ites who are continuing to cooperate with us. When the IDF withdraws and the boundaries of the security strip are determined, things will become clearer and the population in that strip will realize that our dominant impact is longstanding and not subject to change. In other words, Israel is a fact.

Then I have no doubt many Shi'ites will want to cooperate with us; basically they are an oppressed, simple people who want to live and do their thing without interruption and without threat of catastrophe. If Israel can guarantee them this, they will cooperate. Defense means the presence of local forces — the army of southern Lebanon [ASL] — that will be backed by Israel.

Walter: Will the ASL that will operate in the security strip be the same ASL Israel had planned it to be?

Lubrani: The original conception regarding the ASL was good as long as there was a chance for an official settlement with Lebanon. At present this is inapplicable. It is difficult to determine right now what the shape of the ASL will be after the IDF withdraws, but in principle there will be units that will operate as independently as possible, each unit in its natural domain, that is, the ASL soldiers will guard their own villages and homes. They will depend on IDF backing, if necessary.

Walter: How deep do you think the security strip should be?

Lubrani: It should be "substantial" enough to serve as an effective filter against physical penetration attempts by the terrorists, although it is clear to me that in its present formulation, the Cabinet's decision cannot allow for a deep enough strip to serve as a shield for the northern settlements against katyusha and artillery fire.

Lubrani on Phalange Leader Comments on Syria

TA241852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of activities in Lebanon, by moderator Avner Tavori and Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, in the Tel Aviv studio — live]

[Text] [Tavori] Good evening to you. It seems that the friendship with the Christians is not only increasingly disappearing, but that we will also shortly see them in the same front with the Syrians against us.

[Lubrani] I would not go as far as that. I am asking myself as well as you: Did anyone expect Elie Karamah and his colleagues to say nice things about Israel after meeting with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar [the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of Syria], Al-Asad, and Khaddam? I think if anyone expected this he was entertaining illusions. This is surely a link in the process of the Lebanese Christian establishment's surrender to the Syrians, and this is the way this development should be seen. I believe the process began the moment the Lebanese president appeared in Damascus last year to appease President al-Asad. I view this as a natural link in this process. I would suggest that no long-term developments or cataclysms should be read into this.

[Barne'a] Mr Lubrani, there may be lessons that we should draw from this process, this going to Canossa [denoting surrender]; there may be lessons that we should draw in the sense of mistakes we made in relying on the Christians, on the Phalange.

[Lubrani] I think we have already drawn our lessons. I think that since we see the entire Lebanese political map, and not only the Christian sector, we have, as is well-known, tried to form contacts with the entire Lebanese political spectrum. We do not stand a chance with everyone, nor do we always score a success, but we have surely tried to form contacts with other communities there.

[Barne'a] This is true since you entered your position, is it not?

[Lubrani] I am not attributing this to me personally; I am attributing this to the policy of the State of Israel.

[Tavori] In retrospect, today it seems that the intelligence branch's assessment on the eve of the beginning of the Lebanese war, to the effect that we should not have relied on the Christians the way we did, was correct, after all.

[Lubrani] I confess I am knowledgeable about this piece of history, but what is important to know is that the situation of uncertainty in Lebanon is an axiom, and one should always take into consideration the fact that we are dealing with sand dunes. If we remember this we will spare ourselves a lot of trouble.

[Tavori] One of the worst sand dunes seems to be the Shi'ites. When the Lebanese war began we were the ones who helped the Shi'ites to return to the villages in southern Lebanon from which they had fled for fear of the Christians. Now, though, the Shi'ites have become our enemy in Lebanon. Will the harsh, rather large-scale activity we have now launched against the Shi'ites,

not transform them in the future into an almost eternal enemy of Israel, thus eliminating every chance of rehabilitating relations with them.

[Barne'a] I would like to make this question more poignant, with your permission Avner. My question, Mr Lubrani is: With what is happening now, in fact, have we not now adopted Lebanese methods against the Lebanese?

[Lubrani] Let me answer both questions. Allow me first to say we should not talk about an Israeli war against the Shi'ites. I think this is a mistake.

We are fighting against Lebanese residents who happen to be Shi'ites but who are clearly involved in terrorist activity against Israel. These residents live in a Shi'ite region indeed, but to say that we have waged war against the Shi'ites is a very dangerous mistake. On the contrary, we are seeking every path for a dialogue with the Shi'ites. This may not be the right time for such a dialogue, but to use generalizations regarding an anti-Shi'a Israeli deployment would be a mistake.

Second, as for the Lebanese methods which have been discussed lately, if reference is indeed to those methods, we will be unable to use them. We have no intention of using them; we must adhere to our methods, and let the Lebanese adhere to theirs.

9 'Terrorists' Killed in Searches of Shi'ite Villages

TA240634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Nine armed terrorists were killed and several others were captured during searches carried out by the IDF in Shi'ite villages yesterday. During the operation, many weapons were seized, including a Strella shoulder-launched antiaircraft missile and LAW [light antitank weapons] missiles. In one place, two cars filled with explosives were discovered and detonated.

Recently many suspects have been deported to Lebanese areas under Syrian control, and many others have fled IDF-controlled areas. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a report issued by UN Headquarters states that many inhabitants have fled to UNIFIL camps and requested refuge there in the wake of the IDF searches. The IDF officers in charge of the searches were instructed to allow UN officers to be present in the villages during operations there. The IDF officers showed UNIFIL members the weapons and ammunition uncovered in houses in Burj Rahhal before they were demolished.

The IDF liaison unit building in Al-Nabatiyah was attacked twice more last night, when RPG's and automatic weapons were fired at it.

ALGERIA

APS Reports on Joint Press Communique With Poland

LD231636 Algiers APS in English 1351 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers, 23-2-85 (APS) — A press communique released at the issue of the visit of Poland Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski underlined the two countries will to develop bilateral cooperation. The two sides charged the joint committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation with setting up tools which may help exploit the different possibilities to develop a cooperation based on equilibrium and mutual advantage.

As regards the international situation, the two sides focused attention on the necessity to purge the international relations. They stressed the gravity of the world economic situation; they said elimination of its causes and negative efforts on the developing countries should be based on a true restructuration of the present system of the international economic relations. Concerning the situation in the Middle East, in Maghreb, in southern Africa and in Central America, the two sides underlined that the solution to the problems faced by these regions must respect the peoples' right to self determination.

Before (?his) departure the Polish foreign minister who paid a three day official visit to Algeria foreign minister expressed satisfaction with the results of his talks with the Algerian high officials. Mr Olszowski said he was audienced by President Chadli Bendjedid to whom he handed over a message from General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Council of Ministers of People's Republic of Poland and of Professor Henryk Jablonski, head of State Council of the Republic of Poland, during the various contact he had with the Algerian high officials.

The Polish minister also underlined his deep interest in developing the commercial exchanges as well as the economic, the scientific and the technical cooperation.

These items, the Polish minister added are to be examined during the forthcoming session of the Algero-Polish joint commission.

Reportage on Visit of Spanish Foreign Minister

Arrives 23 Feb

LD231215 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran arrived in Algiers this morning on a 24-hour working visit. At the airport he was met by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and by the ambassadors of the two countries.

Communique on Natural Gas, SDAR

LD241512 Algiers APS in English 1004 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers, 24-2-85 (APS) — Algeria and Spain reaffirm the necessity of a negotiated political solution to the issue of Western Sahara based on the respect of the right of the Saharan people to self-determination.

A joint communique winding up political talks, between the foreign ministers of the two countries underlined the firm belief of the two sides that the whole implementation of the Resolution 104 of the 19th summit of the OAU and the Resolution 39.40 of the UN General Assembly is likely to favor the search of a just and lasting solution of the Western Sahara problem.

Algeria and Spain are keen on contributing to the advent of an era of peace and cooperation in the region and reiterate their attachment to the establishment of a political dialogue with a view to resolving the problems which jeopardize peace and security in the Maghreb and the Mediterranean, the press release added.

On the bilateral level, the joint communique mentions the signature of a protocol of agreement on the supplying of Spain with liquefied natural gas. The two countries underlined the importance of this agreement for the stepping up of cooperation. The communique states that the joint Algero-Spanish commission of cooperation which will meet next month will explore the sectors of a dynamic cooperation ensuring mutual interests and advantages and identify the possibilities for concluding sectoriel agreements.

Spain and Algeria, inspired by the shared ideal of a renewed cooperation between the north and the south in the spirit of positive neighborliness, agreed to work together to make of the Mediterranean a zone of peace, security, friendship and cooperation.

Received by President

LD241802 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Algiers, 24-2-85 (APS) — President Chadli Bendjedid received here today Mr Fernando Moran, Spanish minister of foreign affairs. The encounter was attended by Mr Belkacem Nabi, C.C. member, minister of energy, chemical and petrochemical industries.

Assesses Visit, Cooperation Talks

PA241902 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1315 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Algiers, 24 Feb (EFE) — Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran has announced that Spain is willing to contribute to a solution to the Western Sahara conflict, "without determining whether the solution should be independence or confederation."

Moran made this statement on assessing his official visit to Algiers, which concentrated on a solution to the conflict over Spanish-Algerian natural gas and on the intensive reactivation of multifaceted economic and political cooperation.

The minister noted that Morocco "does not have to worry in view of Spain's reaffirmation in Algeria of its position on the conflict." This position, Moran added, concerns the right of self-

determination of the Saharan peoples based on the resolutions adopted by international organizations. "On the Saharan problem Spain believes that there should be a solution in keeping with regional balance, and I should add that in my talks in Algiers I have noted a constructive, positive, and realistic disposition on the part of Algeria to facilitate a solution to the problem," Moran added.

The Spanish minister said it is necessary to promote a political understanding in the Maghreb, in view of the fact that Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia are very important interlocutors [interlocutores] to our country.

Moran also noted Spain's interest in Algeria and Morocco's progress toward stability, as should Tunisia, because, he said, "It is necessary that the process that is unavoidably approaching the latter country be carried out in an orderly manner."

Moran noted that Spain, as well as Algeria and other countries of the Magreb, want "a balanced and expanded Western Mediterranean," adding that this is "a primary objective of Spain's foreign policy, which is that countries of North Africa be made important partners."

The joint Spanish-Algerian communique states that the two governments have decided to increase their contacts with the purpose of establishing "a solid, lasting, mutually advantageous cooperation founded in the long-term interests" between the two countries. To this end, the next steps to strengthen bilateral relations are a visit to Algiers by President Felipe Gonzalez in March and the 1 April meeting of the joint mixed-economic cooperation mission in the Spanish capital.

Regarding the topic of gas, Martin Gallego, secretary of the Industry and Energy Ministry, declared that the agreement signed in Algiers is based on a reduction in the order of 235 billion therms in the global quantities signed by Enagas in 1975.

Therefore, a timetable of imports has been established at a rate ranging from 15 billion therms from 1985 to 1987 inclusive, to 30 billion therms in 1990 with a ceiling of 38 billion by the year 2004 — that is, 6 years [as received] after the initial period of implementation.

The remainder of the terms agreed upon include a down payment of $500 million dollars on the part of Enagas, of which $300 million correspond to the difference between the prices paid thus far and those to be billed by Algeria on a retroactive basis, and $300 billion as indemnity for the investments made to supply natural gas to Spain.

Martin Gallego noted that Spain accepts the so-called European price, but the inclusion of a "nondiscriminatory" clause has been agreed upon to prevent Spain from buying Algerian gas at a price higher than that paid by European clients. In 1985 Algerian natural gas will cost Spain some $220 million. As a result of the agreement, natural gas will comprise 7.2 percent of Spain's energy program, while oil remains at more than 65 percent.

For his part, Luis Velasco, secretary general of the Trade Ministry, declared that the beneficial effects of the agreement on commercial relations between Spain and Algeria will not materialize in the short term, but will require several months.

Talks are underway to reactivate trade and contracts reached previously, such as the Mexena hydraulic dam for more than 1 billion pesetas (almost $6 million).

According to Velasco, an intense process to reactivate commercial relations in all sectors will begin at the next joint commission meeting, bolstering them to a state of cooperation similar to that which existed between the two countries before the gas conflict.

Trade Protocol With Turkey Signed

TA220804 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 0530 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] State Minister Kazim Oktay has completed his official contacts in Algeria. A Turkish-Algerian trade protocol was signed in Algiers.

State Minister Oktay, who went to Algiers on Tuesday, was received by Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi. He also met with the ministers of transportation, commerce, energy, chemical and petrochemical industries, and culture and tourism.

The protocol, which is aimed at increasing bilateral trade, was signed at the end of talks held by the two delegations headed by State Minister Oktay and Mohamed Aberkane, the Algerian deputy secretary of state for foreign trade [title as heard], respectively. State Minister Oktay returns to Turkey today.

LIBYA

Al-Turayki, Romanian Trade Minister Hold Talks

LD241752 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 4, February 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the People's Committee for the Foreign Liaison Bureau met yesterday with the Romanian minister for external trade, Vasile Pungan, who is on a visit to Jamahiriyah.

The meeting discussed means and ways to consolidate and promote cooperation relations in all fields between the two friendly peoples and to serve their mutual interests. Furthermore, the meeting reviewed the joint projects, companies, institutions and methods to activate their role in joint and bilateral action aimed at the realization of better cooperation which takes into consideration common interests.

Benin Foreign Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

LD221832 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Feb, JANA — Frederic Affo, the Benin minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Tripoli at noon today at the end of his visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Joint Statement on Lao Official's Visit Issued

LD231538 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Feb (JANA) — In both Tripoli and Vientiane a press statement was made public today on the visit of the deputy foreign minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ]. It states:

At the invitation of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the SPLAJ, a delegation from the LPDR headed by Souban Salitthilat paid an official visit to the SPLAJ from 20 to 22 February 1985, and met with Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, and handed him a message from the deputy chairman of the LPDR Council of Ministers.

The guests visited the International Center for Green Book Studies and Research and listened to full explanations of the principles and the bases of the Third World theory and the experiment of direct democracy being applied in situ by the people of the Jamahiriyah.

Talks were held between the two sides in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding, during which regional and international issues of mutual concern were reviewed. The two sides also looked into means of developing and strengthening bilateral relations and cooperation in the political, economic and technical cooperation spheres. The two sides expressed their support for each other in confronting imperialism and colonialism, and all world reactionary forces, Zionism, and racism.

Tripoli Comments on Husayn-'Arafat Agreement

LD232343 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] After the Palestinian right wing made its conspiratorial agreement with the Jordanian regime with the attendance of a representative of the Egyptian regime and under the supervision of the American administration, 'Arafat, the Egyptian president and King Husayn announced that this agreement is the correct way, as they claimed, towards solving the Palestinian issue.

In order to ascertain what the correct way is according to the lackies of America, we will review some of the points of the agreement between the Jordanian regime and the Palestinian right wing.

Reviewing the texts of the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, the Reagan initiative, and the Stable David accords shows that the correct way according to the lackies of America and those who conspire against the Palestinian cause is the way of treason which abandons the Arab character of Palestine, leads to the consecration of the Zionist presence in the Arab territories, and subjugates the region to the American imperialist influence. The meaning of this, according to the Stable David party, is the wrong way; insisting on the right of the Arab nation to liberate all of its territories, according to Stable David is a wrong way. The struggle to rescue the Arab homeland from imperialist control, according to the Stable David party, is the wrong way; the marytrs who died during the battles against the Zionist enemy and imperialism died for the wrong cause; and insistence on the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people is also, according to the lackies and hirelings, the wrong way.

During the entire period of conflict between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy, the danger against the Arab character of Palestine came from two sources: from the Zionist enemy and from the Jordanian regime. Both sources always enjoyed the support and protection of imperialism and the alliance of the reactionary forces.

The Arab character of Palestine was safe from danger because of two important factors. The first is the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, especially in the depth of the occupied land. The second is the insistence on the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The Arab nation's basic mission first of all is to work towards uniting the fighting squads of the Palestinian revolution; second, to escalate the armed struggle against the Zionist enemy; third, to defeat the treacherous agreement contracted between Husayn and 'Arafat with the participation of the Egyptian regime and under the supervision of the American Administration; and fourth, not to look at the capitulatory projects except from the basis of hostility and to struggle to foil them with a commitment to the fighting pan-Arab way, which is the right way to liberate Palestine.

This is the right way because the Arab struggle's aim is not the establishment of a Palestinian state, even an independent one, in the West Bank and Gaza, and not the right of self-determination for the Palestinians, which leaves the Zionists the chance to remain in our Arab land; rather, the aim is to liberate the whole land.

MAURITANIA

Niger Minister Delivers Message to President

LD231051 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Colonel Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Tayha, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, received this evening Mr Daouda Diallo, minister of information of the Republic of Niger who arrived in the capital this evening.

On arrival Mr Daouda Diallo made a statement to the national press in which he said that he bears a message from General Seyni Kountche to his excellency Col Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state.

The Niger information minister was welcomed at the airport on arrival by Ahmed Ould Ghanhallah, minister of information, post and telecommunications.

MOROCCO

King Hassan To Mark Accession in 'Disputed City'

LD232110 Kuwait KUNA in English 1848 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Rabat, Feb 23 (KUNA) — Celebrations marking King Hassan's accession to the throne on March 3 are apparently set to be staged in the principal city of the disputed Western Sahara much to the embarassment of the diplomats, particularly the Arabs who are trying to bridge the gap between Rabat and Algiers over the issue.

The Ministry of Information has already extended inviations to the press to attend the occasion at El Aaiun but the Royal Court has not yet invited the diplomatic corps accredited to the Kingdom for the ceremonies.

An Algerian-Moroccan summit was expected to look into the dispute and define the points of disagreement in prelude to resolving them, but the summit was not convened although contacts continued to settle the issue before the celebrations.

To mark this occasion, King Hassan is expected to announce formation of a four-party coalition government under current premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani following last September general elections to run affairs of the state for six years. King Hassan has originally asked Lamrani to form the government of the six parties, but observers believe only four parties will join the government.

If King Hassan does hold the celebrations at El Aaiun it will be the second time it is held in the disputed Sahara since the former Spanish colonizers handed over the desert ten years ago.

Mauritanian Envoy Meets With King, Departs

LD231516 Rabat MAP in English 1233 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Marrakech, Feb 23 (MAP) — Mr Mohamed al Walid Ould Dah, Mauritanian chief of presidential affairs, left Marrakech on Friday after a visit during which he was received by King Hassan II of Morocco.

Before departure, Mr Ould Dah told the press that he had conveyed a message to King Hassan II "from his Brother President Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya".

The Mauritanian envoy had arrived in Morocco last Tuesday.

Jordanian Official Brings Message From Husayn

LD250028 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Mr Marwan al-Qasim, director of King Husayn's Royal Court, this evening arrived in Marrakech carrying a message from the Jordanian monarch to His Majesty King Hassan II. Mr Marwan al-Qasim stated that his visit comes within the framework of the continuous consultations between the two Kingdoms.

Foreign Minister Reports on U.S. Talks

LD231522 Rabat MAP in English 1228 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Washington, Feb 23 (MAP) — Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs, left Washington on Friday, after a three day visit to the United States.

On Friday, Dr Filali was received by President Ronald Reagan, to whom he conveyed a message from King Hassan II of Morocco. The meeting with President Reagan was attended by Vice President George Bush, Presidential Adviser for National Security Affairs Robert McFarlane and the two countries' ambassadors, Maati Jorio and Joseph Verner Reed. Dr Filali then held a one hour meeting with Mr McFarlane in the presence of U.S. under secretary of state for Middle East Affairs, Mr Thomas Nassif.

Asked after the meeting whether the Middle East question was raised during his talks with Mr McFarlane, Dr Filali said that "views were exchanged concerning this question." He recalled in this respect, the Arab peace plan of Fez which, he said, constituted a "basic framework" for a comprehensive settlement of the problem in the region.

Friday was also marked by a luncheon offered in Dr Filali's honor by Assistant Secretary of State Kenneth Dam, and which was attended by U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN General Vernon Walters and the two countries' ambassadors.

On Thursday, the Moroccan foreign minister had held talks with Secretary of State George Shultz which covered "bilateral and regional relations" and which he qualified as having been "very friendly".

Dr Filali also held talks on Thursday with Mr Charles Wick, director of the American Agency for International Communications, with whom he examined questions concerning "bilateral cooperation" in matters of communications.

SUDAN

President, Jordan's King Husayn Exchange Messages

JN231514 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1458 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Feb (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a written message from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. This took place when the president received Muhammad Ahmad Dhiyab, Sudan's ambassador to Romania and President Numayri's personal envoy to King Husayn.

The Sudanese envoy said that he had carried a message to King Husayn from President Numayri 2 weeks ago. He also pointed out that the two messages deal with bilateral relations within the framework of continued consultations between President Numayri and King Husayn in order to promote cooperation between Sudan and Jordan.

Egypt's Al-Baz Makes Statement After Numayri Talks

EA230428 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The president of the Republic, Jaf'ar Muhammad Numayri, received a message from his brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, concerning recent events in the Middle East region and Sudan and Egypt's unified stands toward them. The message was conveyed to his excellency at his office in the Friendship Hall yesterday by Dr Usamah al-Baz, director at the Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs and first undersecretary at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, who paid a short visit to the country yesterday.

In a statement after the meeting, Dr Al-Baz said that the message is essentially a message of solidarity between the two peoples in the Nile Valley and it is a part of a series of continuing consultations between Presidents Numayri and Mubarak. He said the two countries are striving to achieve peace and stability in the region and establish good relations with all the states wishing to do so. They are also keen on going ahead with economic and social development operations in the valley area. Dr Al-Baz added that President Numayri entrusted him with a message to his brother, President Mubarak, expressing his pleasure with the special relations that bind together the two countries.

In reply to a question about reports circulated by some Western mass media recently on the United States freezing of its assistance to Sudan and Egypt's views regarding this, his excellency said it is a serious mistake for any state to embark on cutting off aid to Sudan, because it needs aid. In this respect it is like other Third World countries confronting the crushing problem of the drought which is threatening areas of the African Continent, including Sudan.

He added that Egypt's information indicate that the United States did not take any decision to halt or cut off aid. The United States appreciates Sudan's position and the importance of its efforts in economic development, and that, in Egypt's opinion, the assistance offered to Sudan by the United States will continue. Indeed, Egypt is asking the United States for an increase, so that Sudan may be able to meet its increasing needs.

TUNISIA

President Receives Message From Saudi King

LD222339 Riyadh SPA in English 1905 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Tunis, Feb 22, SPA — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba received today a message from HM King Fahd dealing with the Saudi monarch's recent visit to Washington and his talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

The message was conveyed by 'Ali ibn Moslum [spelling as received], special envoy of HM King Fahd during a meeting with the Tunisian head of state. The audience was attended by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali; Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi; and Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Tunisia 'Abbas Qazawi.

The Saudi envoy returned to Tunis yesterday from Libya after delivering a similar message to Libyan leader Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi. The envoy has delivered similar messages to King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

In a statement to SPA Moslum said his mission was successful and his talks with Arab Maghreb leaders had led to identical point of views and appreciation of the visit's outcome.

Saudi Defense Minister Sends Message to Counterpart

LD230629 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Slaheddine Baly, Tunisian minister of national defense, today received a written message from His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation, concerning the strong relations between the two countries. The message was conveyed by the Kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia, 'Abbas Fariq Qazzawi during his meeting today with the Tunisian minister.

Reportage on Visit of Italian Defense Minister

Arrives 22 Feb

LD221302 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Giovanni Spadolini, Italian defense minister, arrived this morning in Tunis leading an important delegation on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of the minister of national defense, Slaheddine Baly.

Spadolini said that the visit, which is the first by an Italian defense minister, reflects the strength of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. He added that it follows Prime Minister Craxi's visit to Tunisia and falls within the context of a friendship mission to Tunisia in accordance with both countries' determination to develop bilateral relations in all fields and find a solution satisfactory to both sides on the regional issue of maritime fishing.

He announced that he will continue talks with his Tunisian opposite number, which started last October in Rome, concerning the means of developing military cooperation, especially in the fields of aviation and military technology. Also, Spadolini explained that his visit will enable him to review with Tunisian officials the latest developments in the situation in the Middle East in light of the latest initiatives in the region on finding a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Holds Talks With Counterpart

LD222203 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Slaheddine Baly, minister of national defense, held talks this afternoon with Italian Defense Minister Spadolini Giovanni.

The two ministers chaired a working meeting in which members of the two delegations took part, and during which the various aspects of military cooperation between the two countries and the means of developing them were reviewed. The two ministers expressed their satisfaction over the course of the Tunisian-Italian relations which have been consolidated since the meeting between President Habib Bourguiba and President Sandro Pertini.

Joint Military Cooperation Discussed

LD231417 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba received this morning Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini in the presence of Tunisian Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly and Italian Ambassador to Tunisia Gianfranco Farinelli. President Bourguiba presented Spadolini with the Republican Medal of the First Grade.

Following the meeting Spadolini said that his meeting with President Bourguiba falls within the framework of the friendship which binds Tunisia and Italy together. He added that he brings warm greetings from Italian President Pertini. He said that he still recalls his brief visit to Tunisia on the inauguration of the Tunisian-Algerian-Italian gas pipeline.

Spadolini said he discussed with President Bourguiba bilateral relations and military cooperation between the two countries in addition to the agreement on the cadres formation and matters of the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in all spheres. He said: We have also discussed Europe, freedom, and the Mediterranean, because we are convinced that it is in the interest of Italy and Tunisia to lay foundations for greater solidarity within the whole Mediterranean area.

Speaking at a press conference held this morning at the guest house in Carthage, Spadolini said that Italy is determined to mediate between the interests of the EEC and those of the Arab Maghreb, while also supporting the entry of Portugal and Spain into the EEC. He devoted his press conference to evaluating his talks with Tunisian officials and to a number of bilateral and international issues.

Spadolini affirmed in particular Italy's determination to intensify cooperation with Tunisia in all spheres including the military sphere. He pointed out that the framework being prepared by the two sides provides for drafting a complete program of cadre formation and the exchanges of military technology, particularly in the air and naval sectors. He declared that his country is determined to enhance Tunisia's military capabilities and develop training programs at the Tunisian Military Academy at Djedid Hotel, where a third stage is expected to be created within the framework of cooperation between the two countries.

Spadolini affirmed Italy's support for the recent initiatives aimed at finding a just and lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of respect for the sovereignty of all the region's countries. He pointed out that the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement constitutes a new positive factor capable of enhancing peace efforts. He also expressed his country's concern for Lebanon's independence and sovereignty.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD250026 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The 3-day official visit to our country by Italian Defense Minister Giovanni Spadolini ended today. The Italian minister, before he left, said that he had discussed with the Tunisian officials issues of political, economic and military character. He stated that the two countries decided to implement an important military program concerning the formation of military cadres and the exchange of expertise in the air and naval sectors.

Concerning the Middle East problem, Spadolini stated that the views of the two sides are identical, and he expressed the hope that peace and stability will prevail in the Mediterranean region.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Calls for Implementation of OAU Article No 104

LD232346 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The true application of OAU Regulation No 104 is the basic condition for a direct negotiated settlement between the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] and Morocco. This was stressed yesterday by the Saharan minister of foreign affairs, Ibrahim Hakim, according to the Saharan Ministry of Information.

Ibrahim Hakim said that Rabat's claims, which see different solutions to the conflict from those specified unanimously in the OAU and the United Nations, are nothing but a new maneuver by the Moroccan regime which aims at falsifying the true situation.

Ibrahim Hakim pointed out that Regulation No 104, which was ratified by the 19th OAU summit, specifies direct negotiations between the two conflicting parties — the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and the Moroccan Kingdom. Therefore, all these Moroccan maneuvers aim to confuse the issues following the SDAR's admission to the OAU.

ETHIOPIA

Government Asks For Help in Returning Falashas

EA240925 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] A statement from the Foreign Ministry:

The kidnapping by force of many thousands of Ethiopians and taking them to Israel for settlement is a case that the international community has been following with interest. To use the current drought and famine as a pretext for the piratical action of kidnapping many thousands of Falashas, which was conspired and planned by Israel with support from the Sudanese Government, is making fun of the international community's judgment and feelings. In fact, the natural disaster which hit Ethiopia is not limited to a particular race nor is it limited to particular area.

The fact that cannot be denied is that the Sudanese and Israeli conspiracy and act of banditry was carried out on the basis of the unfounded idea that the Falashas are Jews. However, this idea is a distortion of reality and does not have any basis in history, prehistory, or human race [words indistinct] science. Although there have been well-planned infiltrations in the last few years to introduce some Jewish beliefs and traditions among the Falashas, those Ethiopians have remained committed to their previous way of life.

Those Ethiopians, known as Falashas, are the same as the Semitic people found in northern Ethiopia. Since the beginning of Ethiopian history, they have lived in the northern part of Ethiopia. They are not descendants of Abraham or believers in the Jewish faith as the Jewish international propaganda instrument is joyfully propagating. Even Jewish religious leaders have repeatedly denied that Falashas are Jews.

Those who are called Falashas are Ethiopians by race and blood. The language they speak is the language which the other Ethiopian communities speak. There is nothing that makes them different from any other Ethiopian, whether by appearance, structure, or shape. Their eating habits, culture, and clothing are the same as those of their compatriot Ethiopians. Their religion has many similarities with other religions which have acquired their beliefs from different religions and have remained strong in countries for many centuries. Falashas are Ethiopians who have made the largest contributions toward the enrichment of black people's culture and the glorious history of the country.

Through their kings, who were respected among the people and who administered the country in succession, the Falashas have been prominent in Ethiopian politics from the 9th to the 11th century. They hve proved their true loyality to their mother country by their struggle on different fronts for the country's independence and territorial integrity. These people were not taken by force to Israel by groups motivated by goodwill but by organized criminal groups with a view to accumulating wealth by spiriting these people away.

In short, this kidnapping, during which up to $1,000 were paid per person and on which Sudan's Government made much profit, reminds us of an out-of-date slave trade situation. To evict the black people who possess a black civilization from the area where they have been living in peace for many centuries and to sell them is not a wrong done to just Ethiopia and Africa, it is also a criminal action directed at the black people of the world who broke the fetters of slavery by bitter struggle. They are being discriminated against by the Israeli Government and people. Just after the news of the kidnapping of these Ethiopians, the international condemnation that it caused shows that it is a situation which is no better than the South African apartheid regime.

As broadcast news has clearly shown, the general Israeli public is opposing the absorbtion of the Falashas into their community based on racial differences. These Ethiopians who were taken by force are in a difficult situation, in a society, surroundings, and culture that is foreign to them and that they do not understand. Because they are settled on the Israel border, now and then they are exposed to the conflict created with the Arabs. They are being discriminated against in residential housing and the work they are given is also the kind of work considered inferior by the community.

They are being exposed to different kinds of surgery and check-up's naked, in a way that affects their self-respect and human dignity, because they are being forced to do things alien to the black people's culture and tradition. In general, it is an illegal action being taken to make a black people with different economic and cultural tradition become Jewish by force. These Ethiopians who were threatened, lured, and forced to travel are committing suicide due to humiliation, frustration, and regret.

The Ethiopian Government again expresses its anger at the taking of its citizens, illegally, by force, from the area they have lived in for centuries and wants to emphasize its shock at their committing suicide due to the economic, cultural, and religious discrimination that they are subjected to in the country where they have been taken. In line with its responsibility for return to their beloved country of its citizens who were rashly taken from their property and homes, illegally kidnapped, and forced to become refugees, the Ethiopian Government would like to bring to the attention of the international community the racial, economic, cultural, and social oppression to which these Ethiopians are being subjected. If this situation continues, it is not difficult to say that the ugly face of racism like that which is currently seen in apartheid South Africa is deepening its roots.

The Ethiopian Government, in line with its heavy responsibility to ensure the well-being of its citizens, asks forcefully that the international community do everything possible to make the Israeli Government quickly return the citizens it has forcefully kidnapped to their country.

Mengistu Sends Messages

EA250552 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam today called on the international community to do all it can for the return to their motherland of the Falashas who have been kidnapped by the Israeli Government with the collaboration of the Sudanese Government.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Central Committee secretary general, Provisional Military Administrative Council People's Republic chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, made the call in messages conveyed to President Julius Nyerere, Tanzanian leader and current OAU chairman; to Rajiv Gandhi, Indian premier and current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement; and to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general.

In his message to President Julius Nyerere, the comrade secretary general said that this tragic act, which affected a wholely African society, resembles slave trade, and he appealed to him to take all necessary actions for the return of the Ethiopians to their country by revealing the act to members of the organization in his capacity as current OAU chairman.

In a message to Rajiv Gandhi, our comrade revolutionary leader said that the subjection and exploitation of the Falashas by kidnapping them from their motherland is not only in opposition to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, but is also detrimental to Ethiopia, which is a founding member of the movement, as well as to the history of the movement.

In a message to the UN secretary general, Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam said that the plot Israel perpetrated against Ethiopian citizens is in defiance of the organization's charter for the right of human beings to life and freedom, and he called on Perez de Cuellar to inform member states of the conspiracy that occurred and to look for ways and means by which the kindapped citizens can be returned to our country.

OAU Foreign Ministers Arrive for Regular Session

EA250620 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Ministers from 17 countries arrived in Addis Ababa today to attend the 41st OAU foreign ministers regular session. Those who have arrived are: Francois Ngarukiyintwali of Rwanda, Anyl Gayan of Mauritius, Koffi Amega of Togo, Montsi Vincent Makhele of Lesotho, Antoine Ndinga-Oba of Congo, Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, Dr Mangwende of Zimbabwe, Dr Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, Dr Albert Wilson Picho Owiny of Uganda [as heard], Lameck Kazambi Haza Goma of Zambia, Simeon Ake of Ivory Coast, and Ahmed Ibrahim of Algeria. Mohamed Hashi Egal, Somali deputy finance minister; Chimwemwe Hara, Malawi trade and industry minister; Carlos Lobo, Mozambican deputy foreign minister; and (Ben Ali Bakar), Comoros trade and economics minister [title as heard], also arrived in Addis Abab this morning.

In another development, Mohamed Djama Elabe, Djibouti minister of national education, youth, and sports arrived in Addis Ababa to attend both this meeting and the 8-day Ethiopian-Djibouti sports festival which opens today in the context of the sports and protocol agreement between the two countries. The minister was received by Comrade Goshu Wolde, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee member and foreign minister; Dr Peter Onu, OAU interim secretary general; Comrade Ambassador Girma Tadese, head of the African and Middle East (?directorate) in the Foreign Ministry; and ambassadors of the respective countries at Bole International Airport.

Ambassadorial, Commissioner Promotions Announced

EA222256 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The Provisional Military Administrative Council this evening issued promotions as follows:

1. Comrade Tefera Haile Selassie, WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee member and deputy minister in the office of the Council of Ministers, promoted to ambassador to a foreign country;

2. Comrade Teshome Desta, head of the budget department in the Ministry of Finance, promoted to tourism commission commissioner;

3. Comrade Biru Abebe, head of the agricultural department in the coffee plantation corporation, promoted to the position of head of eastern Ethiopia zone planning with the rank of commissioner.

Briefs

Economic Agreements With PDRY — Ethiopia and Democratic Yemen, PDRY, have signed agreements in Addis Ababa to enable them to cooperate in various economic spheres, as well as make trade exchange during the year 1985. The agreements were concluded yesterday, following the fifth regular meeting of the Ethiopian-PDRY joint commission on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. The agreement of the 1985 joint commission (?was signed on behalf of Ethiopia by) Comrade Wollie Chekol, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and minister of foreign trade, and comrade Ahmad 'Ubayd al-Fadli, minister of trade and supply of the PDRY. [Text] [*Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 21 Feb 85 EA*]

Canadian Wheat Aid — The Relief and Rehabilitation Commission today received 25,000 metric tons of wheat estimated to be worth 9,189,000 birr, including the cost of transport, as aid from the Canadian Government. The Canadian Government will cover birr needed to transport and distribute this aid to our drought-hit compatriots. [Excerpt] [*Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 21 Feb 85 EA*]

KENYA

Moi Addresses KANU Youths on 'Subversive Activities'

EA222211 Nairobi KNA in English 1615 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Nakuru Feb 22 — His excellency, President Daniel arap Moi, today castigated certain politicians who instead of being the representatives of the people they propagated subversive activities in the country.

The president said that the few students who were behind the recent disturbances at the University of Nairobi's main campus were misled by those propagating these subversive activities. He pointed out that the few students who instigate the unbecoming behavior at the main campus, come from the same areas where those propagating subversion come from.

President Moi was addressing a delegation of KANU youth wingers from Nakuru district who paid a courtesy call on him at his Kabarak home. The delegation was led by the Nakuru district KANU Branch Chairman Mr Kariuki Chotara, who is also a nominated member of parliament.

The president said that unless those involved in the promotion of these subversive activities stopped doing so, he would go to their home areas and name them publicly so that wananchi would decide whether they needed them or not.

The president, however, said that he had faith in the youth of this country despite the recent happenings at the university where a negligible number of students was involved.

He said that parents had educated these youth for a long time and were eagerly awaiting their graduation so as to reap the fruits of their sweat, only to be wrecked by these instigators. He said such instigators had already acquired their own degrees.

The president commended the KANU youth wingers in Nakuru district for sacrificing their time and energy without any form of reward, in their noble determination to maintain peace in collaboration with the police and the administration. He said that even traditionally, the youth were charged with the responsibility of protecting the old and children and ensuring that the nation was secure.

President Moi commended Mr Chotara and other KANU leaders in the district for working hard for the welfare of the youth, and added that the KANU youth wingers should be helped to venture into money-generating programs for their livelihood. The president advised the youth of this country to refuse to be misguided by disgruntled elements who do not care about the welfare of their country.

He commended the leaders of Nakuru district for living and working in unity and attributed this to their good leadership. The delegation included all members of parliament and other leaders from the district.

Trade Agreement With USSR Comes Into Force

LD231740 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Kenya and the Soviet Union have exchanged instruments of approval of a trade agreement signed between the two countries in Nairobi in July 1983. The exchange took place in the office of the permanent secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Bethuel Kiplagat, who handed over the instrument of approval on behalf of the Kenya Government today. The Soviet ambassador to Kenya, Mr Aleksandr Chikvaidze, handed over the instrument on behalf of his government. The instruments of approval enable the agreement to come into force and thus becomes operational.

The first trade agreement between Kenya and the Soviet Union was signed in 1964. Since then trade between the two countries has been growing steadily and is currently in favor of Kenya.

Thanking the Kenya Government for ratifying the 1983 agreement, the ambassador said this is the first time that trade agreement between the countries has been ratified since Kenya's independence.

TANZANIA

Trade Agreements Reached With Zambia, Malawi

EA240316 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The deputy governor of the Tanzania Central Bank, Ndugu Bob Makali, said Tanzania reached an agreement with Zambia and Malawi on ways to increase trade with those countries. Ndugu Makali said Tanzania and Zambia will buy commodities from each other, using funds in bank accounts which would be opened in their respective countries. On trade with Malawi, Ndugu Makali said the two countries will trade using their own currencies. The deputy governor of the bank said agreement with Malawi was reached in Dar es Salaam this week during talks between himself and the general manager of the Central Bank of Malawi, Mr (Mabiya).

CAMEROON

President Biya Receives Equatorial Guinean Minister

AB221857 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The head of state, President Paul Biya, this afternoon granted audience to the Equatorial Guinean minister of territorial administration and national security, Mr Isidoro Eyi Mosey Andeme. The Equatorial Guinean minister of territorial administration and national security told Radio Cameroon that he was bearer of a special message from President Obiang Nguema to President Paul Biya. He also said that Equatorial Guinea's adherence to the franc zone was very welcome back home and has started bearing fruits.

Foreign Minister Leads Delegation to OAU Conference

AB222132 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Foreign Minister William Eteki Mboumoua left Cameroon this afternoon for Ethiopia where he is leading Cameroon's delegation to the 41st ordinary session of OAU ministerial council, which will take place from 25 February to 5 March. The session was prepared by experts who have been meeting since 15 February.

This 41st session will examine economic issues, particularly the upcoming economic summit which will be devoted to four important issues: evaluation and adoption of measures that will accelerate the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action; special action program to improve the food situation and the rehabilitation of agriculture in Africa; Africa's external debts; and [words indistinct] management of African economies.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Habre Envoy Meets Kolingba, Denies Incursions

AB221220 Paris AFP in French 1004 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] Bangui, 22 Feb (AFP) — It was learned in Bangui on Friday that General Andre Kolingba, CAR head of state, had received on Thursday Ali Salim, adviser to the Chadian president, who delivered a message from Hissein Habre.

Speaking to the press, President Hissein Habre's envoy maintained that regular Chadian troops had never crossed the CAR border, thus repeating the denial made last Saturday by the Ndjamena authorities about recent incursions by Chadian troops into CAR.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, reported 14 February in Bangui that the Chadian National Armed Forces, FANT, had launched several attacks on CAR territory, against villages occupied by Chadian refugees. These attacks, it was said, took place in January near the border between the Moyenne-Sido and Chari Districts, about 400 km north of Bangui.

GABON

Guinea-Bissau's Vieira Ends Visit, Signs Treaty

AB230822 Libreville Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] President Joao Bernardo Vieira of Guinea-Bissau ended his 2-day official visit to Libreville. President Vieira left our capital yesterday after his official visit, during which he held several rounds of talks with his Gabonese counterpart, President Omar Bongo.

Two important activities marked the Guinea-Bissau president's stay here: the signing by the two presidents of a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty and the creation of a Joint Cooperation Commission between Gabon and Guinea-Bissau. It should be recalled that at the end of this visit, a final communique was published. Here are the main points of the communique:

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The two presidents agreed that such bilateral meetings, which form part of the necessary consultations between the two countries, should be increased between the governments of the two countries in order to enable them to seek ways of translating into concrete terms their political will to establish fruitful cooperation, notably in the economic and cultural fields.

During this meeting an atmosphere of deep sincerity, mutual understanding, and frank and brotherly cooperation between Guinea-Bissau and Gabon prevailed throughout our discussions. The two heads of state signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation, a treaty under which a joint cooperation commission between Guinea-Bissau and Gabon was created.

At the end of his stay, President Vieira thanked President Bongo, the government, the people, and the Gabonese Democratic Party for the warm reception accorded him and his delegation. The president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau extended an invitation to his counterpart of the Republic of Gabon to pay an official visit to his country at a date to fixed through diplomatic channels.

Issued in Libreville on 22 February 1985 and signed by Honorine Dessou Naki, secretary of state to the minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation for Gabon, and Julio Semedo, minister of foreign affairs for Guinea-Bissau. [end recording]

RWANDA

Diplomatic Relations Established With Colombia

LD222312 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Rwanda and Colombia have decided to establish diplomatic relations. This decision was made public today in Kigali by the Rwandan Foreign Ministry and in Bogota by the Colombian Foreign Ministry.

The communique on this decision stressed that the two countries will work toward promoting cooperation in areas of common

interest and peace within the international community. Colombia and Rwanda also agreed to respect the fundamental principles contained in the UN Charter and that their relations should be governed by the Vienna convention.

Tanzanian, North Korean Delegations Arrive

EA250630 Kigali Domestic Service in French 1115 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Summary] A delegation from Tanzania led by the minister for home affairs and another delegation led by Comrade (Chil Jai Sieng), assistant to the head of the External Department of the Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea, arrived in Kigali this morning.

ZAIRE

Public Sector Pay Raises Limited for 1985

AB240925 Paris AFP in French 1331 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Kinshasa, 23 Feb (AFP) — Salary increases in Zaire's public sector will come in two increments and will be limited to 25 percent in 1985, government spokesman Ramazani Baya announced on Friday. These increases, according to experts, are in line with recommendations made by the IMF, with whom Zaire is to renew its agreement next March. "The year 1985 will be a difficult year for Untza," the National Union of Zairian Workers, the only trade union, a commentator of the official radio indicated today. The union should at once "ensure the respect of Zaire's commitments to the IMF" and also go ahead with its "trade union" activities, he said.

A month ago, workers at the national transportation office, Onatra, undertook a 1-week strike action with the hope of getting a 50 percent pay raise in 1985, but this was completely ruled out by President Mobutu Sese Seko.

AZAP on Nation's Attachment to Basic Options

AB221150 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0800 GMT 22 Feb 85

[AZAP commentary: "Zaire Faithful to Its Options"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 22 Feb (AZAP) — Every passing day confirms the opinion that Zaire is more than ever attached to its basic options with regard to both internal and external policy. In his inaugural speech on 5 December 1984, the MPR founding chairman firmly promised to ensure a true economic revival of the country through concrete actions which he outlined, while guaranteeing the necessary consolidation of all the gains of the Zairian revolution.

Within a short time, great strides are being taken in the investment sector. But this fresh flow of capital into our country — such as the substantial investment announced by the Tamman group in a certain number of areas and which is likely to be followed by other investors who have already been here on survey missions — in order to be profitable, must be shielded from all disturbances.

This therefore explains — the logic is clear — the untiring efforts of Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko to safeguard peace and security for everyone within the national borders. This is why, without mortgaging its determination to ensure social well-being in Zaire, the Executive Council is striving hard to make the Zairian Armed Forces the "watchdog" of the Republic. The firepower and striking force that the Zairian Army has been given in this framework does not make it, as Marshal Mobutu continually stresses, a force of aggression; rather, it is essentially a force of deterrence. This therefore explains the relentlessness with which Zaire advocates dialogue in all circumstances for the solution of any differences likely to arise between it and its neighbors.

The state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, who recently reconfirmed this orientation during a dinner reception held in honor of heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Zaire, made it a reality on Wednesday by making his first visit abroad — as executor of Zaire's external policy — to the sister Republic of Congo. By that visit he wanted not only to reassert the full interest that Kinshasa attaches to good relations with Brazzaville, and through it with all neighboring capitals, but also to highlight Zaire's attachment to projects of subregional groupings, especially the Economic Community of Central African States, groups on which the consolidation of African unity necessarily depends.

But what needs to be stressed is the fact that through Congo, it was in fact to all the neighboring countries with whom Zairians have varied ties that the state commissioner was addressing himself when emphasizing the harmonization of cooperation for freer movement of persons and goods in the well-understood interest of the peoples on either side of their common borders.

GHANA

Rawlings Addresses Closing Session of CDR Seminar

AB231204 Accra Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Regional and district organizing assistants of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR], at the end of a 4-day seminar in Accra, have resolved that a revolution is implemented through discipline and hard work and not by chanting slogans. These qualities, they admitted, are the bedrock of any meaningful revolutionary process. The cadres made their comments after the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Committee [PNDC], Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, had addressed the closing session of the seminar.

They stated that never had they been treated to such critical self-analysis which made them see themselves in the mirror of their own minds perpetrating acts which tended to destroy the very revolutionary process they claimed to be working for. For the first time, some of them began to see themselves as the real enemies of the revolution as their negative actions were pointed out to them. They saw themselves as contributing to the alienation of certain sections of the society by their utterances, behavior, and lack of respect for logic and intellect. The vacuum that was created by the alienation of skilled manpower at the very onset of the revolutionary process and the harmful effect this had on the economic life of this nation became apparent to them. They also appreciated how simplistic a revolution is in theory but very difficult to implement in practice.

To some of them, it gave them a new insight into the concept of people's power, participatory democracy and service to the people. It dawned on them that service to the people entailed humility, sacrifice, self-denial, honesty, and integrity. To this end, the work of the cadre is measured by his identification with the hopes and aspirations of the people of the community in which he lives and works.

The political counselor for the economic development of CDRS, Lieutenant Colonel J.Y. Asase, reminded the cadres of their commitment to the cause of the revolution. He was happy that the seminar afforded the cadres the opportunity to acquire new skills and training. It also helped them to reorientate their minds to enable them to work out new strategies to guide them in the performance of their duties. The seminar was for a theme: Forging Ahead With a New Direction in the Revolution.

IVORY COAST

Border Commission Meeting With Ghana Concludes

AB231422 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The extraordinary session of the Ghana-Ivory Coast joint border demarcation commission held a 3-day meeting at the International Trade Center in Abidjan. A report was issued at the end of the session. The report reveals that the demarcation work is completed.

The Ivorian side has completed its work on the opening of an 8-meter wide service path along the common border which is 190 km, 827 meters long. The commission has noted the considerable work done by the Ivory Coast in spite of the economic crisis and various other difficulties, and its unswerving commitment to the commission.

The Ghanaian side declared that it was unable to produce any report on the state of the work done on the field. It instead read the 1979 report because no work was done in the field due mainly to the political developments in Ghana. However, the Ghanaian side has expressed the hope that with the re-organization of its commission and the renewed interest of the Ivorian Government to see the demarcation work completed, its delegation would be able to produce a positive report during the next joint commission's meeting.

Albert Agre, acting head of the Ivorian delegation and director of the Department of Studies and Legislation at the Ministry of Justice, expressed satisfaction over the meeting.

[Begin Agre recording] We are happy with the conclusions of the deliberations. First, because we were able to express the political will of our two countries to see the demarcation work resumed and quickly completed. And this meeting, which was also to reestablish contact, has enabled the Ivorian side to review the situation and through the report, which was presented to the delegates, you were able to see that in spite of the difficulties and the economic crisis facing the country for 6 years now, we did not give up and we have continued to progressively complete our work. Therefore, it is possible today to say that the demarcation work is completed on the Ivorian side. We have yet to plant some special trees and we will have to maintain the new road.

We have also noted that for your part those 6 years have been 6 years of inactivity, but for reasons we, of course, understand. And we believe that the time it took us to complete our work would be shorter for you when you resume your work. Because the commission, in any case, is a joint commission, I am convinced that you will benefit from our experience and you will be able to achieve in 3 years what we achieved in 6 years. [end recording]

Guinea-Bissau's Vieira Stops Over in Abidjan

AB222139 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of Guinea-Bissau, made a technical stopover this afternoon at the Abidjan International Airport. He was returning home after paying a 24-hour visit to Gabon. During the stopover, President Vieira stated that his discussions with President Bongo were cordial and very fruitful. He also stated his attachment to consultations among African leaders on the continent's problems — problems that they experience themselves and which they consequently understand better than anybody else. The Guinea-Bissau head of state also stated that he was very pleased with the welcome accorded him by the Ivorian Government.

[Begin Vieira recording] I thank the Ivorian people, their government, and especially President Houphouet-Boigny for the welcome accorded me. We think that our cooperation with the Ivory Coast can be further strengthened in the future because, as I have just said, among us Africans, we have the same way of understanding each other in order to settle our daily problems for the well-being of our peoples. [end recording]

Zairian Foreign Minister Delivers Mobutu Message

AB231506 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The Zairian Foreign Minister today delivered a message from the Zairian head of state. Pierre Adepo, who has just returned from the Presidential Palace, reports:

[Begin recording] [Adepo] Zaire and Ivory Coast have reaffirmed the excellent relations between them. This is contained in the short statement made by Zairian Foreign Minister Mokolo wa Mpombo. He brought a message from President Mobutu Sese Seko to President Houphouet-Boigny:

[Mpombo] I have just delivered a written message to President Houphouet-Boigny from his younger brother President Mobutu Sese Seko. As you know, in the diplomatic tradition, since it is a written message addressed to President Houphouet-Boigny, I cannot reveal the contents. But I can assure you that we talked about bilateral relations between Zaire and Ivory Coast, which are very good. Above all, the personal relations between the two presidents are very strong and the union between the two countries is also very strong. [end recording]

MALI

Traore Accepts Invitation To Visit Malaysia

AB222040 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] In Bamako, General Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Malian People's Democratic Union and president of the Republic of Mali, this morning received in audience His Excellency Zainal Haji Lembang, the Malaysian ambassador to Mali. The ambassador gave President Moussa Traore an official letter of invitation from his majesty, the king of Malaysia, inviting President Moussa Traore to pay an official visit to Malaysia. The ambassador also delivered to the head of state a message of friendship from the Malaysian prime minister. President Moussa Traore has asked the ambassador to transmit his gratitude to the his majesty the king of Malaysia for the invitation, which he has accepted with pleasure in order to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the Malian and Malaysian peoples. Gen Moussa Traore also asked the Malaysian ambassador to transmit his greetings to the Malaysian prime minister. After the audience, His Excellency Lembang spoke to Oumar Toure.

[Begin recording] [Lembang in English fading into French translation] Thank you. I had the privilege to give to his excellency the president a message from my prime minister. After that, I delivered to the president a letter of invitation in which his excellency the king of Malaysia invites His Excellency President Moussa Traore to visit Malaysia, and we hope his excellency the president will pay an official visit to Malaysia very shortly.

[Toure] Excellency, last year your country donated rice to Mali within the framework of help for countries affected by the drought. Also, this year, as the drought persists, Mali has appealed for international assistance. Does Malaysia hope to do something to help us?

[Lembang] We recently sent two delegations to Mali and they have not yet submitted their report to the Malaysian Government. However, we hope that we will soon be able to set up a research center for agriculture in Mali. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Leaves for The Hague, Addis Ababa

AB221643 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] His Excellency Alioune Blondin Beye, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, left Bamako this morning for The Hague. The Malian foreign minister will also go to Addis Ababa at the head of the Malian delegation to the OAU ministerial meeting, which is to prepare the OAU economic summit scheduled to take place this year. The ministerial meeting will take place from 25 February to 6 March in the Ethiopian capital.

NIGERIA

Gambari on Policy Issues; PLO To Open Mission

AB221542 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Nine Nigerian missions abroad have been closed down for economic reasons. The missions are the embassies in Mexico, Greece, Turkey, and Lebanon as well as the consulates in Hamburg, Rio de Janeiro, Doula, Baghdad, and Liverpool. The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrhaim Gambari, stated this today in Lagos while briefing newsmen on the activities of his ministry. Dr Gambari said that as a result of the closure and staff changes, over 207 external affairs officers were recalled home and 100 retired for low productivity and old age. The minister remarked that his ministry has succeeded in giving effect to the pronouncement by the Federal Government that Nigeria's foreign policy would be dynamic and realistic. He stated that the government would not relent in its efforts to ensure the continuous promotion and sustenance of peace and unity within the ECOWAS region.

Dr Gambari described relations between Nigeria and the countries in the subregion as cordial and friendly, but added that steps were being taken to remove certain obstacles to raise further the level of bilateral relations. Referring to the recent treaties signed in Lagos by the heads of state of Benin, Ghana, Togo, and Nigeria, the minister said that there were plans to extend the substance of the treaties to other neighboring countries like Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

On the Chadian conflict, Dr Gambari stated that the Federal Government was working with the OAU chairman, President Julius Nyerere, in new initiatives aimed at bringing peace to that country. The minister remarked that among the most significant foreign policy achievements of the present administration was the recognition accorded the SDAR and the successful seating of the SDAR at the last OAU summit in Addis Ababa.

In answer to a question, the minister said that the Federal Government had formally requested Britain to extradite the minister of transport and aviation in the defunct civilian administration, Dr Umaru Dikko. He explained that Dr Dikko was not being sought for political offense, but for charges of corruption and kickbacks while in public office.

Dr Gambari announced that the Federal Government has allowed the PLO to open an embassy in Lagos. He said that relations between Nigeria and the PLO would be at an ambassadorial level.

Gambari Departs for OAU Ministerial Council Meeting
AB250900 Lagos NAN in English 1420 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Lagos, Feb 24 (NAN) — The minister of external affairs, Dr Ibrahim Gambari, left Lagos yesterday on a 10-day OAU Ministerial Council meeting opening tomorrow in Addis Ababa. A source close to the minister told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the meeting would discuss OAU's budget and other financial matters.

Other members of the Nigerian delegation to the meeting included the minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, and the director-general, African Affairs of the External Affairs Ministry, Ambassador Hamzat Ahmadu.

The source said that at the end of the meeting, Dr Gambari would travel to Tanzania where he would hold discussions with the chairman, President Julius Nyerere.

Speaking to NAN before his departure, Dr. Gambari said that Nigeria might press for sanctions against OAU member-states that had defaulted in the payment of the organisation's levies and contributions. The minister also said that Nigeria had started discussions with Niger, Chad and Cameroon with a view to initiating treaties on extradition, police cooperation and customs and immigration cooperation. Recently Nigeria, Benin Republic, Ghana, and Togo signed similar treaties.

Dr Gambari said that the Federal Military Government was committed to promoting peace and unity within the west African sub-region.

Guinea-Bissau's Paulo Correia Arrives 23 Feb
AB240848 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The vice president of Guinea-Bissau, Paulo Correia, arrived in Lagos yesterday for a 4-day official visit to Nigeria. He was met on arrival at Murtala Mohamed Airport by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, members of the Supreme Military Council, and service chiefs. Today, the Guinea-Bissau vice president will visit Benin, Bendel State. He will tomorrow hold bilateral talks with Gen Idiagbon at Dodan Barracks and will be granted audience later in the day by the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

Minister Seeks Better Trade Terms With CSSR
AB222144 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Nigeria has called for positive steps to correct the trade imbalance between her and Czechoslovakia. The minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, made the call in Lagos today. Speaking in his office when the Czechoslovak ambassador paid him a courtesy visit, Chief Adigun remarked that trade relations between the two countries were far from being satisfactory. He told the Czechoslovak envoy that Nigeria would welcome assistance in the fields of agriculture, health, and education. The Czechoslovak ambassador in his response pledged his country's friendship and continued support to Nigeria in all fields.

Meeting With Niger on Drought, Desertification
AB250710 Lagos NAN in English 1400 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Kaduna, Feb. 24 (NAN) — Nigeria and the Republic of Niger have agreed to intensify scientific research into drought and desertification through the Nigeria-Niger joint commission.

A communique issued today at the end of talks in Kaduna between the Kaduna state military governor, Air Vice-Marshal Usman Mu'azu, and the governor of Zinder in Niger Republic, Lieutenant-Colonel Moumouni Adamou, called on peoples in drought-affected areas to stop cutting down trees for firewood and find altenative sources of energy such as kerosene, gas and coal. The two countries also agreed that if cattle could stop feeding solely on grass, the problem of desertification would be considerably reduced.

The communique commended the two countries' efforts to control rinderpest but said that there was need for more control posts at the border.

Lt-Col Adamou, who arrived in Kaduna on Friday on a three-day visit, thanked the government and people of the state for the reception accorded him and his entourage.

NAN on 'Slave Laborers' in Equatorial Guinea

AB241155 Lagos NAN in English 1143 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] Calabar, Feb 24 (NAN) — The expected airlift home of Nigerian slave labourers in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea could not commence today as announced, (?according to) External Affairs Minister Ibrahim Gambari.

One of the two airforce Hercules transport planes sent to Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, landed at the Calabar International Airport empty, while the other flew empty to Lagos.

Some of the eyewitnesses at the airport told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that when beseiged by the crowd, including top military and government officials, that came to witness the operation, the airforce pilot reportedly told them that the authorities in Malabo did not bring out any Nigerian for evacuation. He told them that he was flying back to Lagos for further instructions.

As at that yesterday several government vehicles were parked at the Calabar airport awaiting to transport the refugees to rehabilitations camps. [sentence as received]

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

President Dismisses Foreign, Plan Ministers

LD232036 Lisbon International Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Sao Tome and Principe President Manuel Pinto da Costa has dismissed the minister of foreign affairs, Maria da Graca Amorim, and the minister of plan, Agapito Mendes Dias; he has taken over the two portfolios himself. President Pinto da Costa is also the country's prime minister.

Guilherme Posser da Costa, 32, a Lisbon-trained jurist, has been appointed secretary of state of foreign affairs.

A new minister of justice has also been appointed, Francisco Fortunato Pires, Sao Tome and Principe's former ambassador to Lisbon.

SIERRA LEONE

President Stevens To Make 4-Day Visit to Egypt

AB231303 Paris AFP in French 0739 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Freetown, 23 Feb (AFP) — Sierra Leonean President Siaka Stevens is expected to begin a 4-day official visit to Egypt, it was learned on Friday from informed sources in Freetown.

A six-man government delegation, led by Foreign Minister Sheka Kanu, including Secretary of State for Education Abubakar Kamara, left Freetown on Friday for Cairo.

The two countries have been maintaining good relations since the establishment of their diplomatic relations 12 years ago. An agreement recently renewed has enabled 300 Sierra Leoneans to be trained in Egyptian universities.

The austerity measures 2 years ago taken forced the government to close down its embassy in Cairo. Sierra Leonean embassies in Accra, Bonn, The Hague, Paris, and Rome were also affected.

TOGO

Lacle, Beninese Minister Tour Border Region

AB221625 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpts] Tado town, the hub of the Togolese and Beninese inhabitants living in the border towns in the lower Mono division and situated at 160 kms from Lome, yesterday afternoon gave a warm welcome to the Togolese and Beninese ministers of interior and security [title as heard], Kpotivi Tevi-Djidjogbe Lacle and Lieutenant Colonel Edouard Zodehougan, respectively. This is the second time the two men are meeting in less than a year. The first visit by the two ministers to this border area took place on 6 April 1984.

During that mission as well as yesterday's, the two emissaries of Presidents Eyadema and Kerekou took to the inhabitants there messages of peace, entente, solidarity, and mutual understanding.

Mr Lacle urged the inhabitants to hand over the thieves they arrest to the forces of order or to the village heads and asked them to refrain from taking the law into their hands because human life is so sacred that it must be respected.

For his part, the Beninese interior minister spoke on the same issues as his Togolese counterpart and stressed security and development. Lt Col Zodehougan urged the Beninese and Togolese inhabitants living in the border towns to work toward a climate of mutual confidence and understanding. It was his belief that we cannot overcome underdevelopment in a climate of insecurity.

French Army Officers Depart After Joint Maneuvers

AB221600 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] General Jeannou Lacaze, chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, and Major General Michel Noel du Payrat, inspector of the French external forces, left Lome this morning after a visit to our country to attend the French-Togolese maneuvers codenamed Kawa-85.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Receives Mobutu Message, Meets Mongolian

MB230655 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, yesterday in Luanda received a message from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko. The message from the Zairian head of state was verbally conveyed to Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos by (Limy Mayedissaminy), the director of President Mobutu's office.

Also yesterday, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos received Sonomyn Lubsangombo, deputy chairman of the Mongolian Council of Ministers, in an audience granted in Luanda. The Mongolian official left Luanda early this morning and returned to his country at the end of a working and friendship visit to Angola, during which he met MPLA-Labor Party and government officials.

BOTSWANA

Foreign Minister To Attend Addis Ababa OAU Meeting

MB221653 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Dr Gaositwe Chiepe, and her South African counterpart, Mr Pik Botha, were meeting in Pretoria today. Dr Chiepe was accompanied by the permanent secretary to the president, Mr Festus Mogwe; commander of Botswana Defense Force, Major General Mompati Merafe; and a number of senior government officials.

The Botswana delegation is expected home today with the exception of Dr Chiepe, who will be traveling to Addis Ababa from Pretoria to attend the budget session of the OAU. The OAU session is expected to examine the economic problems currently affecting the African Continent.

MOZAMBIQUE

Foreign Minister Chissano Visits Portugal

For Lisbon and Johannesburg reportage on the visit to Portugal by Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, including his meetings with Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares and Foreign Minister Jaime Gama, see the Portugal section of the 25 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SOUTH AFRICA

President Urges Naval Cooperation by West

MB221134 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1127 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Simonstown, Feb 22, SAPA — Western powers that rejected South Africa's offer of cooperation in maritime defence did so at their own peril, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, said in Simonstown today.

"Not only do they ignore our hand of friendship, they also deny us the means and ability to fully serve the interests of the free world in our region and in our oceans. They do so at their own peril," Mr Botha said in a speech prepared for delivery at a function marking the awarding of honorary citizenship to him.

It was a "tragic irony" that Western powers to which South Africa extended a hand of friendship and cooperation in matters such as maritime defence brushed away that hand for the sake of short-term expedience, the state president said. Simonstown was one of the best-equipped naval bases in Africa and its modern facilities were available for use by friendly nations wanting to use them. However, South Africa's offers of cooperation were rejected while Soviet battleships were stationed in Luanda and docked regularly in some East African ports and while the ANZUS defence pact between the United States, Australia and New Zealand was on the point of collapse, Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha said that, as Simonstown had played a significant role in the defence and safety of the free world, so every South African had a task in Africa.

"South Africa, in its endeavors of cooperative coexistence, extends a hand of friendship across all boundaries, to every remote corner of Africa," Mr Botha said. "Let us put aside the strife and distrust in order to create a future of peace and prosperity for all."

A new "union of strength" had to be created on the continent regarding matters that were important to Africa and its people.

Mr Botha warned the great powers to keep their "ideological struggles" away from Africa. "Africa must once again grow and develop, solve its own problems and postulate the interests and well-being of its own people.... The luxury of bizarre ideological disputes can no longer be afforded."

Police Investigating Local, Arab Renamo Links
MB241055 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 Feb 85 p 2

[By Stephan Terblanche]

[Text] Security police in South Africa are clamping down on members of the local Portuguese community suspected of having ties with Renamo, the Mozambican resistance movement.

Highly placed sources said police had been questioning Portuguese citizens in Johannesburg in connection with aid to Renamo.

This has been confirmed by leading members of the local Portuguese community.

It is understood that the police are also investigating several people in connection with criminal activities related to support for Renamo, say official sources involved in monitoring Renamo.

Meanwhile, Renamo is changing its tactics and exploiting new areas of financial and arms aid in a bid to step up its 10-year struggle against the Frelimo government in Maputo.

Official sources, liaising closely with the Mozambican intelligence services, as well as Renamo sources in the Johannesburg Portuguese community, have indicated that Renamo is now using the large Islamic presence in the northern provinces of Mozambique to obtain aid from influential businessmen in Arab countries.

The names of several prominent Arab businessmen and politicians — one of whom recently visited South Africa — are mentioned in this connection and, according to the sources, Renamo has received arms supplies from Arab countries via the predominantly Islamic Comoro Islands in recent months.

Since the signing of the Nkomati Accord, South Africa has been severely embarrassed by Renamo, which is seen by the outside world as being a creation of Pretoria.

Renamo has consistently refused to cease hostilities, and Mozambique has been accusing South Africa of not being able to control Renamo elements inside South Africa.

Official sources say they have positively established where Renamo is getting most its aid. They confirm previous reports that alleged a Spanish-Brazilian multimillionaire, Mr Manuel Bulhosa, who frequently visits South Africa, where he has business interests, is involved.

Two top Renamo officials, secretary-general Mr Evo Fernandes and his assistant, Mr Jorge Correia, once worked for Mr Bulhosa's publishing house in Portugal.

Mr Bulhosa is also alleged to have financed the colonial private army, Flechas, of Mr Jorge Jardim, which fought against Frelimo and out of which Renamo later grew.

Mr Jardim, a godson of former Portuguese dictator Salazar, in turn channelled aid from Mr Bulhosa to Mr Orlando Christino, the Renamo leader who started the resistance movement with Rhodesian aid and was later murdered near Pretoria.

A second fabulously wealthy businessman — a French-speaking Brazilian with international banking, oil and other interests — is named as another Renamo backer.

The sources say intelligence experts have established that Renamo, trading on the religious plight of north Mozambican Muslims and using the international business influence of its two backers, has persuaded the sultan of Oman and other influential Arabs to side with Renamo.

The names of several Arab businessmen with extensive oil interests are linked to this international network of backers for Renamo.

In return, Renamo is promising the potentially-rich oil and mineral concessions in northern Mozambique to its Brazilian and Arab backers. These concessions are currently held by Esso, BP and Elf-Aquitaine of France.

"Renamo has told the Arabs that it no longer wants control over the whole of Mozambique, but wishes to partition the north of the country and establish an Islamic republic," say the sources.

Islamic influence and interest in northern Mozambique goes back centuries, and the forefathers of the present Sultan of Oman played a large role in bringing Islam to Mozambique and settling Arabs there.

The sources also point to a "third force" responsible for much of the destabilisation inside Mozambique. This force consists of several other smaller resistance groups, namely Gumo, Frecomo, and Coremo, as well as dissidents of the Frelimo Army and common rural bandits.

The sources have also said that Mr Rui Forjaz, a former Beira newspaperman, now a Johannesburg hotelier, is being investigated in connection with the recruitment of Renamo mercenaries.

At his Johannesburg hotel Mr Forjaz denied any knowledge of mercenary recruitment. Mr Forjaz, who admits to a long-standing and close relationship with several prominent leaders of Renamo, says he still sympathises with them but has no formal ties with the movement.

The Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, said yesterday that after the accord of Nkomati the South African police were bound to comply with the stipulations of the Accord.

The police act accordingly against any person who transgresses the stipulations of the Accord.

Union Leader Arrested on High Treason Charges
MB230730 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 23 Feb 85 p 2

[Excerpt] The national president of the South African Allied Workers Union (SAAWU), Mr Thozamile Gqweta, has been arrested on a charge of high treason and is to stand trial with 15 other opposition leaders, seven of whom were arrested this week.

Mr Gqweta has been detained without trial at least nine times since 1980.

A police spokesman said Mr Gqweta would appear in court on Monday and that his case would be combined with the other 15 leaders of the United Democratic Front and its affiliate organisations.

His arrest brings to four the number of SAAWU officials in the UDF trial.

Deputy Minister Denies SABC Bias Against Opposition
MB240740 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, says he rejects allegations that the South African Broadcasting Corporation gives inferior news coverage to opposition parties.

Addressing a function of the Afrikaanse Taal en Kultuur Vereniging [Afrikaans Language and Culture Union] in Johannesburg, he said that although the SABC sometimes warranted criticism, the criticism should not be misplaced.

The SABC was often accused of favoring the government by propagating its policies and saying nothing about its mistakes, but the corporation was faced with a problem common to all Western news media; namely, that the government of the day was the biggest single newsmaker in any country.

Ultimately, the consideration of what should be broadcast in a news program had to be determined by its newsworthiness, and not by its propaganda value.

Johannesburg Cites Shultz on Angola, Namibia
MB231223 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Feb 85

[Text] The American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, says the continuing Soviet-Cuban intervention in Angola has prevented independence for South-West Africa in terms of Resolution 435 of the UN Security Council.

In a speech to the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Mr Shultz said that external intervention would not lead to an internal settlement in Angola, and called for the withdrawal of Cuban and South African forces from the country. He said the UNITA movement was steadily expanding the territory under its control, and predicted that at some time there would be an internal settlement in Angola that reflected the reality there.

Mr Shultz sharply attacked the Ethiopian Government. He said the country's Marxist-Leninist leaders had been indifferent to the suffering of their people. The effects of drought had been compounded by the government's obsession with ideology and power, with starving people being denied food for political reasons.

Johannesburg Cites Progress on Namibia Independence
MB250746 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] It has always been obvious that independence for South-West Africa in an internationally arranged settlement would depend on a process of clarification of the terms on which it should be achieved, and the obstacles which stood in the way of satisfying those terms.

At one time, the independence issue could rightly be described as insoluble. So far apart were the premises on which the various approaches to it were being advanced that a peaceful resolution was out of the question. Breaking the deadlock required, before anything else, that the parties should reexamine their premises and, especially, that they should begin to acknowledge the realities of international and regional power interests. Achieving that — in effect, redefining the context in which the issue had to be resolved — was bound to be a laborious diplomatic process.

How far that process has now advanced has emerged from testimony by Dr Chester Crocker before an American congressional committee. The only issue still blocking independence for South-West Africa, Dr Crocker said, was the timing of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. That statement, made against the background of the MPLA government's acceptance — at least in principle — that the Cuban troops should be removed from Angola, focuses on the key to the unravelling of the tangled complexities surrounding the independence issue. And it places the onus squarely on the MPLA government now to prove its good faith in removing the last fundamental obstacle to independence.

South Africa, as Dr Crocker pointed out, has no interest in retaining South-West Africa. Five years ago it accepted UN Resolution 435 and the major objective it set, that South-West Africa should become independent after the holding of free and fair elections. Persistent efforts have been made to persuade SWAPO to take part peacefully in the democratic political process in the territory, and so create the conditions in which free and fair elections may be held. It has been pointed out repeatedly that the credibility of SWAPO's refusal rests on its ability to continue with the campaign which, in its turn, depends on the aid in training, arms supplies, logistics, and protection of bases received from the Cuban troops in Angola.

The achievement of the diplomacy of the past few years lies in the much clearer perception of that interrelationship that now exists in the West. The regional and international dimensions of the issue are widely recognized. That the Cuban involvement in Angola is a function of Soviet involvement within the framework of the Kremlin's global strategies, is a least implicity accepted in most Western capitals.

So is the corollary, that the Cuban presence undermines efforts to implement democratic settlement for South-West Africa, as well as representing a threat to the security interests of South Africa. The ground rules by which a settlement for South-West Africa must be achieved are growing clearer, and gradually an insoluble confrontation is turning into a manageable diplomatic challenge.

'Constructive Engagement' Encourages Interference

MB250737 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Commentary from the "Africa Survey" program presented by Cliff Saunders]

[Text] American Ambassador Herman Nickel has charged back to Washington, apparently alarmed by the progress made by the disinvestment campaigners, and intent on persuading American legislators not to introduce punitive measures against South Africa. The signs are that the disinvestment campaign against South Africa is gaining ground in the United States.

We are thankful to Ambassador Nickel and the Reagan administration for its concern. However, it is ironic that the destructive disengagement proposed by the disinvestment campaigners, and the success thereof, has been promoted by the constructive engagment policies of the Reagan administration.

As I see it, constructive engagement, in Reagan administration terms, demands as a quid pro quo that there should be change in South Africa and, as such, it is widely publicized. In other words, it creates a climate whereby Americans feel fully justified in interferring in this country's internal affairs, and putting pressure on the government in one way or another. Within that general climate, there will naturally be two forces at work — the moderates and the radicals. And if the moderates cannot come up with something really spectacular, the radicals will claim they have failed, and say: Okay, so now give us a chance.

In a nutshell, therefore, through its constructive engagement policies, the Reagan administration has established a principle making it permissible to interfere in South Africa's internal policies and, no matter how laudible its motives, radical elements are today having a ball exploiting that principle to promote their own ends.

Of course, the most frustrating thing of all is that no one knows what the Americans expect of us. When asked, they have that convenient little phrase, that this country's political system should reflect the consent of the governed. In this multiethnic community of ours, we would like to know from them: The consent of which governed? Certainly the present Reagan administration does not carry with it the consent of the bulk of that country's Negro population, which would want a Democrat in power.

Radio Freedom Gives Call to Arms Against Regime

EA231712 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "Let Us Stand by Our Leaders"]

[Excerpts] Compatriots, as we speak to you today, the fascist Botha-Malan regime has now arrested almost 20 of our national, community, and trade union leaders and charging all of them of so-called treason, which in South Africa means that the blood-dripping sword of the fascist hangmen is now dangling over their heads.

This, compatriots, is a very serious and challenging situation indeed for every genuine patriot of our motherland. This is a serious challenge that the apartheid regime is putting forward before us, the oppressed people. The sweeping arrest of all our leaders is an open declaration of war on our people by the fascist Botha-Malan regime. Such vicious methods of suppressing a people's resilient and revolutionary fervor were last seen being done by the fascist Hitler. No one in our country today can dare say that the fascist Botha regime is anything different from the barbarous regime of Hitler.

Worse still, our leaders are being arrested at a time when the entire country is up in flames with our people in various areas from the Transvaal in the north to Crossroads and (Kaylidja) in the southernmost part of the Cape, waging fierce and high pitched battles with heavily armed police and troops. So far 18 people have been mercilessly butchered this week alone. In the past few months more than 200 of our compatriots have been slaughtered in cold blood in the streets.

All these atrocities, compatriots, are being committed on our people by a regime whom its apologists would like to tell us and the world that it is supposed to be changing for the better and that it should be given time to change and reform. Indeed, if there is any change that (?it is making), it is a change and reform to the worst. It is now clearly exposing even to the blind the naked vicious teeth of the fascist dictatorship.

Surely we need hardly ask ourselves why the terror regime is today making such sweeping arrests of our leaders, because the reason is clear for everyone to see. Botha and his lackeys are scared and frightened by the strength of our unity under the leadership of the UDF [United Democratic Front] and the democratic trade union in our country. And it is through this powerful unity that we have been able to shake the apartheid system down to its roots in the past [word indistinct]. Botha has had to call in his heavily armed troops, who are supposed to be patrolling the border, calling them in to (?shoot) us down in the streets only because of his fear of the strength of our unity through which we have been able to foil all his dirty tricks and maneuvers to try to uphold white minority domination in our country. They now hope

that by arresting the entire leadership of the UDF, they shall have broken its back as they once boasted to have done of our vanguard movement, the ANC.

Today this regime is using its army to kill us like flies in the streets. The death of (?many) of our compatriots at the hands of these savage killers has now become a daily occurance. Why do we not also hit back in the same way? Are we incapable of killing in the same way, countrymen? Those fascist police and troops can also be killed in the same way as their daily killings. They are not invincible at all. They can also be killed by the same bullets that they fire at us. Even knives can kill. We are at war with the barbarous regime, countrymen. Let us forget the idea of having to expect it to change on its own. That will never happen. Instead, we shall continue to be dying defenselessly like flies in the streets. This is a regime that has left only one way for us of doing away with it, and that is by destroying it by force of arms.

And where are these arms? Where are the weapons to destroy this regime? They cannot be found anywhere else, countrymen. They can only be found in our country itself. The weapons are there in front of you. They are in the hands of the policemen themselves. Some of these policemen are coming back to sleep within our midst in the townships. We know where they live. Let us break in their houses and take those guns that the apartheid regime gives them to kill us and turn those guns against them. Let us break into their barracks and take those guns and machineguns. We are now at war, countrymen, against a very vicious enemy, and we have to use all methods to destroy it. We have not only to depend on the weapons of the combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe. As this is a people's war, we the people must now be armed. We should not only expect Umkhonto we Sizwe combatants to arms us. Here is the (?will that) we the people should now attack [word indistinct] installations and take those weapons and use them against their army and police. We too (?must) eliminate their puppets who are roaming among us within. We should attack the police station and the Army barracks and capture those weapons [words indistinct].

As the president said, compatriots, in this the new year, the year of the cadre, every one of us must be [words indistinct]. Every homestead, every village, every township must be turned into a revolutionary base of the people. We have no bases anywhere in the neighboring countries. Our bases must be within our country itself. Our bases must be every home of an oppressed person and democratic freedom fighter. This regime must find itself surrounded by a heavily armed nation out to engulf it and smash it to ruins. We, too, countrymen, like all other people of the world, must fight for ourselves. No one will come from somewhere to liberate us. We have a duty within ourselves to crush this barbaric regime. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to attack. Whether the regime arrests our leaders or not, the war for liberation continues. It is time for each one of our arrested leaders. Tens and thousands of fighting militants armed to the teeth must rise up.

Radio Freedom on Minister Le Grange's Statement

EA230014 Addis Ababa Radio Freedom in English to South Africa 1930 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] Compatriots, the fascist minister of law and order, Louis le Grange, has issued a statement from Cape Town threatening the people of our country with vicious police violence. As usual, he blamed the imaginary revolutionary elements and agitators for the unrest which is consistently spreading throughout the country. In his threatening statement, Le Grange said his fascist police can no longer tolerate violence which he said is being started by individuals. He added that his regime cannot allow the undermining of law and order by what he referred to as unprincipled individuals. Like all other fascists, he went on to shed crocodile tears for those who have been murdered by his police force. However, he admitted that his police are not having it easy in their confrontation with the masses. He reluctantly admitted [word indistinct] that some of [words indistinct].

According to Le Grange, petrol bombs are becoming the main weapon of the people against the racist police. The threatening statement also admitted that people are coming out in their thousands to challenge the legitimacy of apartheid rule and that they with their courageous (?sisters) are making the country ungovernable. Le Grange then concluded his statement by threatening us, saying that his police will be given orders to carry out their duties effectively. What does he mean by carrying out duties effectively? Of course he wants to tell us that the police have been instructed not to hesitate to shoot an innocent civilian. He is telling us indirectly that because of the escalating spirit of resistance against apartheid rule his police have been given a green light to murder as many of our people as they possibly can.

There is no doubt here, dear compatriots, that the Le Grange statement is meant to intimidate us. Why does Le Grange need to tell us that his police can no longer tolerate any violence? Have they ever tolerated any means activities [as heard] in the past? Was there any mass demonstration or a meeting in this history of this country when the police have not intervened? Even in funerals of victims of apartheid, violence, police, and troops are always there to intimidate the mourners or to disrupt the proceedings.

Le Grange also accused our people of undermining law and order. Which law and order is this Hitlerite talking about? Can there be any law and order when the majority of the citizens is denied his basic human rights in the country of his birth? How can we have law and order when we can be woken up in the early hours of the morning by heavily armed troops and police claiming to be searching for agitators? Le Grange must know it by now if he did not know in the past that there is no law in this country in effect yet. Governing laws are enacted by a minority and are imposed on the majority against its will. There is no law in this country which is serving our interests, we, the majority.

Le Grange must also learn to differentiate between order and submission to [word indistinct]. What he is calling on our people to do is to submit to his illegitimate rule. He wants our people in

the Cape Peninsula to accept the lie that they are not legally in that area. He wants them to allow themselves to be uprooted from their residential areas only to be dumped in the Kayelitsha [word indistinct] village [words indistinct].

Le Grange also complained about our people undermining the authority of the apartheid state. We are surprised to hear this fascist lamenting about this because he should be knowing by now that we are working to make this country ungovernable. This undermining of the apartheid authority is not a coincidence or a mistake. It is something worth struggling for. It is not true to say that we were undermining the state authority. But it is true to say that we are undermining the authority of the foreign entity because, to us, the majority, the apartheid state is something foreign.

Those who are in positions of authority did not go there at our (?consent). They were enlisted by a minority and are serving the interests of those who put them there. What is more important, they are there also to suppress our interests. They are doing everything possible to push down our struggle. They are laboring very hard to perpetuate the suffering of the black masses. To us, this state Le Grange is talking about is a symbol of oppression and suffering.

We are undermining the state. What Le Grange should keep in his confused mind is that this undermining of the apartheid state will continue until the day of its overthrow. Our main hope is not only to undermine Botha's authority, but it is to remove him once and for all. Interest to us, just as Le Grange is lamenting about the undermining of the state authority, we are happier because to us things are going according to plan. [sentence as heard] We are happy because we are now beginning to make our country ungovernable and ourselves difficult to control. This process will, instead of being suppressed, spread and deepen until the overthrow of the fascists.

So our reply to Le Grange is that he started lamenting very early; more is still to come. Very soon these very same people who are petrol bombing his police will be shooting them with firearms. Government buildings today are still being set on fire. Very soon they will be sent sky-high with explosives which we will obtain from Le Grange's armory. We wonder how will this particular man when the time comes. [sentence as heard] What will he say when the police tell him that they cannot enter Soweto or any other black residential area because of the mounting (?opposition)? What will he say when police after police will be resigning because of fear for their lives? [passage indistinct]

Instead, Le Grange himself admitted that the number of his boys that are dying at the hands of the masses is increasing and that some of them have been eliminated by firearms. In other words, he is admitting that the people's war is spreading, that more and more of our people are obtaining weapons of war. Attacks against the racist police is a sign that we are now moving into the offensive, that we are no longer going to be the only victims of violence in this country, that the very perpetrators of this reactionary violence which has claimed lives of millions of our people are now beginning to taste their own medicine.

The fact that Le Grange can issue a statement announcing that quite a number of his boys have been eliminated means that the situation is worse [word indistinct] racist regime. We know that they only try to hide their [word] indistinct]. Now for Le Grange to issue a statement admitting that police are dying at the hands of the popular masses means that the situation is getting out of his hand. Le Grange said that large crowds of people are coming out to attack the police and to challenge the authority of the apartheid state. This then means that more and more of our people are responding to the call of joining the struggle.

Our people are beginning to liberate themselves. We all know that the police are the main representatives of the apartheid state and that they are the main enforcers of the apartheid law. For our people to attack them means that they are no longer prepared to be governed in the same old way. They are determined to make the country ungovernable.

And now this Le Grange even told us that his police had been given strict orders to carry out their work effectively. Its all, according to him, are orders to the police. [sentence as heard] So what have they got to do with us? What has the public to do with police orders? Did he tell us on the eve of October 23d last year that the police and troops had been given orders to raid the residents of Sebokeng? So why tell us about police orders? [passage indistinct].

It seems that when we hear that, we will start thinking that if we stand up we shall be shot dead. What he seems to be forgetting is that it will not be for the first time that his colleagues open fire at us. Even this nationwide, ever-spreading uprisings are continuing, despite a reign of terror unleashed by his police, who have long ago started to carry out their work effectively, so these new widely publicized orders are nothing new to us.

Fellow countrymen, any statement from this mass murderer is a pointer to the fact that the racists are feeling the pinch of our blows. They are beginning to feel our strength. The effectiveness of our people's war is scaring them. Le Grange is not talking like this because he is strong. He is not warning us because he does not want to help us, but all this is because he is afraid of our escalating offensive. He is trying to scare us away from the battle front.

When a fascist is talking like this, dear compatriots, it means we are not very far from the goal we set ourselves many years ago. It means, even the ruling clique is feeling the effectiveness of the mass offensive. This, then, means we must intensify the offensive even further. We are all aware that the enemy is on the retreat. What we need to do now, is to force him to retreat even further and then turn that retreat into a rout. This Le Grange's threatening statement must further the call to battle, because it is an admission on his part that he is afraid of the people's war. So let us escalate the war. We are therefore being called upon to join this war in our numbers. We must organize ourselves into small underground cells of a few trustworthy persons and make ourselves fighters for freedom. We must then devise some plans of contacting the underground network of Umkhonto we Sizwe, our people's army, so as to learn more skills of modern weapons.

If that is not possible somehow, the cells must make some plans of obtaining weapons of war from the enemy. We have said time and again, fellow South Africans, that our country is littered with weapons of many types. Those weapons are there to murder us and force us to submit to slavery. If we are not prepared to submit, we must fight, and we cannot fight the white minority regime without modern weapons of war.

Fight is our duty [as heard] as freedom fighters, to make plans of obtaining these weapons. We can buy them, if that is possible, or break into armories of police stations or military garrisons and get them. On the other hand, we all know that all white civilians are heavily armed, and even women and children are armed these days. So we must make means of getting those weapons. After all, we are the domestic servants of these people, and in some cases, we even know where their weapons are kept. Also, here in our residential areas, enemy agents and collaborators are armed these days, and some are making plans of forming some militia units to guard them. It is our duty to make plans of disarming these people, and use those weapons against them.

Fellow countrymen, this is war, and in a war there is no question of thinking about the issue of taking lives. These racists are killing us any way, so why should we be thinking that we must preserve their lives? Preserve them for what? So that they can continue killing and oppressing us? Now is the time to act. Forward with the people's war. [passage indistinct]

SWAZILAND

Bhekimpi Denies Returning ANC Members to RSA

MB221651 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi, has denied as untrue allegations by the ANC that Swaziland had returned members of the organization to South Africa. He said Swaziland in her capacity as the signitary of international law governing refugees would not return members of the ANC to the country of their birth, as alleged by ANC officials in Lusaka, Zambia.

Answering questions posed by the House of Assembly today, Prince Bhekimpi stated that all refugees in the Kingdom were not allowed to use the country as a springboard for launching attacks on neighboring states. He said those refugees that break the law and go about wielding guns are dealt with by law.

On the question why the foreign press always managed to get hold of confidential matters, yet local press do not, the prime minister said there was a committee working to find out why classified information made its way to the foreign press. He said it was, however, not a problem peculiar to Swaziland, as journalists always hunt for news. He said journalists get paid for getting facts on sensitive stories.

The prime minister then disclosed that before the end of the second session of Swaziland's fourth parliament, there would be a parliamentary committee which would also help ministers should it be discovered that ministers are working out of government policies. [sentence as heard]

The prime minister also hinted that there would be a commission of inquiry to establish facts on how far bad elements have penetrated into the security forces of the country. Prince Bhekimpi was answering a question asked by Msunduzeni Dlamini, an MP, on why a commission of inquiry was not carried out to establish the extent of penetration of bad influence into the country's security forces in the same way a commission of inquiry was carried out in the university and the customs union in wake of the 13 million emalangeni fraud. Nevertheless, the prime minister assured the house that the government takes serious all matters of security, as insecurity might scare off investors.

Queen Regent Asks Loyalty of Country's Police

MB221632 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Her Majesty the Queen Regent Ntombi has appealed to the Royal Swaziland Police Force to continue displaying a high quality of patriotism and support to the monarchy like it was doing before the demise of the late King Sobhuza II. The Queen regent made these remarks when she was presented with the late king's gifts of a lion skin and a copperware display by the commissioner of police, Mr Majaji Simelane, this morning at Elusaseni.

The queen mother said the gifts were a vivid indication of the high respect and support the police force had for the late king. Mr Simelane said the gifts were organized in 1981 and were meant for the king's Diamond Jubilee. He explained that all members of the force contributed towards the purchase of the lion skin obtained from Botswana and the copperware display.

Mr Simelane assured the queen regent of the full support and loyal service from the police force. He said members of his force were determined to serve the Kingdom of Swaziland with all its deserved respect and honor.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Returns from Scandinavia, Egypt Visits

MB221238 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] President Kaunda returned home to a warm welcome from a 2-week tour of Egypt and the Scandinavian countries, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland. Dr Kaunda, who was met on arrival at Lusaka International Airport by Party Secretary General Humphrey Mulemba and Secretary of State for Defense and Security Grey Zulu, inspected a guard of honor mounted by 2d Battalion of the Zambia Regiment.

The president was accompanied by his son, Dr Wazi Kaunda, Foreign Affairs Minister Prof Lameck Goma, and two special assistants responsible for political affairs and press, (Walter Skulu) and Milimu Punabantu respectively.

Commenting on the tour, Mr Punabantu said Dr Kaunda discussed southern African problems, adding that there was tremendous response form the Scandinavian countries on the issue. Mr Punabantu said the Nordic countries had promised to support the liberation struggle in southern Africa and added that one of the countries was arresting people selling arms to South Africa.

Mr Punabantu said the trip was intended to thank the Nordic countries for the assistance they were giving to Zambia.

Kaunda Comments on Investment, Mandela
MB230823 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has said Zambia should continue to invite investors in spite of the unfavorable atmosphere prevailing in the southern African region.

Speaking in an interview with (Sam Muntera) of Zambia Broadcasting Services, Dr Kaunda said the task of Zambians should be to encourage investors to come to the country and ensure their safety. However, describing the political climate as threatening, the president agreed that when an explosion occurs because of the situation in South Africa, all those with investments would be affected.

Dr Kaunda said it will be the Pretoria regime to blame for any explosion in the region, since it took the decision of banning the ANC after arresting its leaders. He said for this reason the ANC decided to go underground as the only means to fight discrimination. Asked whether the release of Nelson Mandela would create a leadership crisis in the ANC, President Kaunda said this does not exist, and said such a move will even make the situation much better.

Dr Kaunda described his itinerary to Egypt and the four Nordic countries as highly successful and [word indistinct] them with the countries economic problems and political situation in southern Africa.

ZIMBABWE

Muzenda Appeals for Unity, Warns 'Dissidents'
MB240745 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 85

[Text] The second secretary and vice president of ZANU-PF, Comrade Simon Muzenda, has appealed to Zimbabweans to rededicate themselves to the rebuilding of the country. Addressing a rally in Mvuma yesterday, Comrade Muzenda said Zimbabweans must work as one people if they are to succeed. He expressed regrets that there are still some misguided elements who feel that Zimbabwe is not yet free and are carrying out destructive actions for their own selfish ends. Comrade Muzenda reminded dissidents and their leaders that independence comes only once, and that there is no country which attained independence twice. He added that there is no way Zimbabwe's independence can be reversed.

Addressing the same rally, the ZANU-PF deputy secretary for administration Comrade Frederick Shava outlined the government's achievements in health, education, and rural development. He defended the labor relations bill, saying it is a landmark in the consolidation of the workers' rights. Comrade Shava explained that the widely publicized outcry against the bill is advocated by employers, who seek to uphold their oppressive status.